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# THE JERUSALEM POST

**TUNE TO THE BACKWEB**  
THE JERUSALEM POST CHANNEL

VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19604 MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1997 NISAN 14, 5757 14 THU AL-HIJJAH 1417 NIS 7.00 (Eilat NIS 6.00)

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# No indictment for Netanyahu

## Coalition appears intact

By SARAH HONIG

The decision not to charge Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's relatively soft criticism of him instilled cheer in the Likud yesterday, but caused disappointment on the left.

**Netanyahu admits mistakes, Page 2**  
**Deri won't be Pessah sacrifice, Page 3**  
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In the Likud, the feeling was that the government is no longer endangered. No political earthquake is expected and there is little likelihood that any of the coalition partners will leave.

involved in the decision making and not to rely just on one person no matter what his title or status." "It's a difficult day and a difficult report," said Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky (Yisrael Ba'aliya). "We're happy that charges will not be pressed against the prime minister, but the very fact that we have to be glad there's no such indictment, and that we have to meet on the eve of a holiday to discuss the situation, shows the seriousness of the matter."

Hebron deal was refuted, he said, and he had at most made a mistake which was blown out of all proportion by a hostile press - especially Channel 1 - and by his political rivals, whose aim was to set aside the verdict of the voters. Netanyahu promised a ministerial committee on senior appointments and made it clear that the entire episode was behind him.

Netanyahu's attorney Ya'acov Weiroth stressed that what the decision signifies is that "Netanyahu was not guilty of any conspiracy. The problem involved the prime minister's judgment, that is which information should

have rung alarm bells for him and which need not have. But this is another sphere." Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh complained that Channel 1 "after all this is continuing with its disproved claims. Its line now is that the story is true, but that it merely could not be proven. The fact is that the report clearly says that the Bar-On for Hebron allegation was not proven and that the prime minister did not give in to threats or pressures."

Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak said the prime minister has the highest regard for Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and "I know of no plan to remove him from his office or to set in motion other cabinet changes."

and the man who heads it cannot continue in office." But the view was radically different on the left. The Labor Party issued a statement claiming that "the results of the investigation are a caustic charge sheet against the prime minister. The ethical



**Aryeh Deri: To be indicted for breach of trust, fraud and extortion - wanted Bar-On appointment for reasons related to his criminal trial. Exerted pressure and threats; sent message that Shas's vote on Hebron could be connected to the appointment.** (Isaac Harari)



**Binyamin Netanyahu: Apparently promised Deri that Bar-On would be appointed. Insufficient prima facie evidence to support submission of an indictment on suspicion of criminal acts.** (Ariel Jerozolimski)



**Tzahi Hanegbi: Withheld intention to appoint Bar-On from ministers and general public - did not report accurately that Supreme Court President Aharon Barak opposed the appointment. Insufficient prima facie evidence to press charges.** (Ariel Jerozolimski)



**Avigdor Lieberman: Was in contact with Deri over the Bar-On appointment - aided Deri in implementing this. Fate will be decided following additional examination of evidence against him, after the Pessah holiday.** (Israel Sun)

## Tight security during Pessah

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The Pessah holiday, which begins tonight with the Seder, is to be marked by unprecedented security measures as a result of continued warnings about possible terror attacks.

Families throughout the country were making last-minute preparations for the seven-day holiday, during which no hametz - bread or other leavened product - may be eaten or even kept.

The holiday will also mark the official opening of the synagogue from the Byzantine period at Ein Gedi. The synagogue has a mosaic floor which includes a curse on anyone who reveals the secret of the community (apparently a reference to the making of incense from a native plant).

During the intermediate days of the holiday, the Western Wall Tunnel is to be open and free of charge from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

## Pessah greetings

We extend warm wishes for a happy, peaceful and kosher Pessah to our readers and to all the people of Israel.

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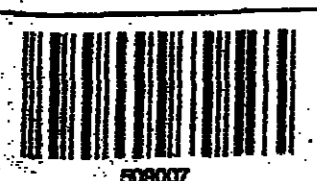
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# Insufficient evidence to indict PM

## Rubinstein: There was a factual basis to Channel 1 report

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The files against Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi in the Bar-On Affair will be closed, for lack of sufficient evidence to indict them, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein announced last night.

However, an indictment will be brought against MK Aryeh Deri, although he will have the right to a hearing first, Rubinstein said. Deri will be charged with fraud, breach of trust, and extortion, he said, but this process will begin only after the conclusion of the current court case against him.

No decision has yet been reached with regard to two others questioned and seemingly incriminated in the affair - Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, and businessman and Likud activist David Appel, he said.

Rubinstein, however, did have criticism for Netanyahu. "There appeared to be serious suspicions with regard to the prime minister," he said, but since there was insufficient evidence to support them, they would have to be judged not in court but by public opinion.

The same was true in the case of Hanegbi, he said. "Suspicious, no matter how grave, are not evidence," he said.

The three-month-long Bar-On saga culminated in the announcements made by Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel at a packed news conference in the Justice Ministry in Jerusalem. But the news conference was somewhat anticlimactic, since there appeared to be few surprises after most pundits had predicted the outcome of the legal deliberations on the basis of leaks.

"This is not an easy time because of the public and personal sensitivities involved," Rubinstein said. "We are talking about an issue that is at the very foundation of the rule of law... We checked and checked again whether there was enough evidence [to present an indictment]. The material presented to us by the police raised suspicions that crimes had been



Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel present their findings in the Bar-On Affair at the Justice Ministry yesterday.

committed in the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general, but it was not conclusive and would not stand up in court from the point of view of criminal law... Problems of normative behavior are not necessarily criminal."

He noted the problems involved in relying on the evidence of one central witness, attorney Dan Avi-Yitzhak. The fact that the investigation began as a result of a media broadcast "made things very difficult for the investigators and, in certain cases, prevented the discovery of the truth about the affair," Rubinstein added.

He said that a few days had elapsed since Ayala Hasson's initial broadcast and the start of the

investigation and this might have helped people involved to coordinate their stands.

The investigation did not solve the entire puzzle, Rubinstein said, charging that "several of the parties" had not divulged everything they knew.

Rubinstein came to the defense of Channel 1, which broke the story but later faced attacks from the Prime Minister's Office. There was a factual basis to the broadcast, he noted, "both in the fact that MK Deri was interested in the appointment of Bar-On as attorney-general for reasons related to his criminal trial, and also that MK Deri acted in concert with others to advance the appoint-

ment.

"A basis was also found for the assertion that Deri had sent a message that there was liable to be a connection between Shas's vote on the Hebron agreement and the appointment of Bar-On... It seems that Deri, Appel, and attorney Dror Hotev-Yishai were interested in Bar-On's appointment as attorney-general" because that would make him head of the prosecution, Rubinstein said.

In this respect, Lieberman "aided Deri in implementing the objective," Rubinstein said. However, Hanegbi had his own personal reasons for wishing to appoint Bar-On, with whom he had previously worked.

Rubinstein stressed that the fact that public figures were involved had not influenced the decisions. "We did not act in their favor or against them," he said. "We weighed the material only on the basis of evidence, whether there was or was not evidence... and did not try to please or hurt any of the sides."

Arbel stressed the important contribution of the police. She noted that three of the legal experts had supported the police recommendations for indictments, but said she had personally found the evidence to be insufficient.

"Differences of opinion strengthen a democracy," she said.

# Netanyahu admits mistakes, attacks opponents

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday admitted he had made mistakes concerning the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general, promised to correct them and improve the government's functioning, but said the affair, as far as he is concerned, is behind him.

In a speech broadcast immediately after Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein made public his intention to close the case against Netanyahu, the prime minister blasted his political rivals and the media for exaggerating the affair out of all proportion in order to topple the government.

"It is clear to me today that we must improve the process of choosing candidates for senior positions in the civil service," Netanyahu said, promising to "take stock" in his government and "to consult with more people, to examine more candidates, in a most thorough way. I'm sorry for all the mistakes that were made and will act to correct them. Our government will be from now on more open and accessible. I intend to work in

complete cooperation with my colleagues in the cabinet and coalition."

The prime minister stressed that "there is a big difference between making a mistake and committing an offence. I made a mistake in the appointment [of Bar-On], but did not commit a transgression."

He then launched a scathing attack against his political rivals for distorting his mistake and "blowing it up to frightening proportions for political motives ... to cancel the election results and bring down the govern-

ment."

Netanyahu also slammed the media and especially Israel Television's Channel 1, in contrast to the attorney-general's report, which commended the media for exposing the affair and rendering an important public service.

The report stressed that "a considerable part of the facts [in Channel 1's story] was substantiated and we're not dealing with an unfounded publication." But Netanyahu said all the central arguments they [the media] raised were proved incorrect. No

deal between [MK Aryeh] Deri and Bar-On was proved, there was no Hebron-for-Bar-On deal and third, I did not succumb to any pressure in appointing Bar-On."

He said that "some media people identified with the left were happy to adopt every malicious accusation, as imaginary as it may be or as groundless, as long as I was at its center."

He added that "some people, especially in Channel 1, are still not ready to accept the voters' decision and almost every evening, they attempt to undermine the government's legitimacy, of course together with our political rivals from the left. They are willing to do anything, including things in violation of basic human rights which they preach piously, in order to cancel the mandate we received from

our voters." At the end of his speech, Netanyahu admitted that the affair had caused damage to the government and promised a thorough internal examination to correct whatever needs to be corrected. He announced his intention to form a senior ministerial committee to recommend senior appointments in the civil service.

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**CHAIM HERZOG**  
6th President of the State of Israel  
and sends condolences to his wife, Aura,  
and the entire family.  
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condolences to the family

Our beloved husband, father and grandfather  
**BARNEY RAYBURN** ז"ל  
(Dov Ber)  
passed away on Shabbat Hagadol.  
The funeral took place yesterday at the Netanya Cemetery.  
Deeply mourned by his  
wife, Rita  
daughter, Sara  
and the Leibler family

## INDICTMENT

Continued from Page 1

basis for his government is lost." Labor will hold a large demonstration in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square on Saturday night.

Peres called on Netanyahu to "resign immediately. There may not be enough evidence to put him on trial, but there is plenty of evidence to put to him to the trial of the voters. It is unthinkable that we have a prime minister who functions under such shadows, though his guilt cannot be proven."

Party leadership candidate Ehud Barak charged that "Netanyahu's attacks on the press, the left, and the police contain a dangerous anti-democratic element. He places blame on the basic building blocks of democracy. There is more to democracy than the election to office of one individual."

He charged that the "only reason Netanyahu will not stand trial

is because the evidence to convict him was not found, but he will always be stigmatized and his moral claim to govern will be eroded to the point that he will not be able to function. He may survive for the short term, but his government will not last out the year."

Another Labor leadership candidate, Ephraim Sneh, has begun circulating a petition calling for a state inquiry commission to look into the affair. He argues that such a commission would not be stopped by the lack of evidence.

Another Labor candidate, Yossi Beilin, who is petitioning the High Court to overturn Rubinstein's decision, referred to Netanyahu and the other accused as "that gang."

"Their government fell already," he said. "It fell, even if formally it still claims to exist. No government can go on with such suspicions hanging over it. There may not be indictments but there is guilt."

## Palestinians deny renewing security ties with Israel

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's spokesman yesterday denied reports that the Palestinians have resumed security cooperation with Israel.

Channel 2 and Army Radio reported over the weekend that Arafat had ordered a resumption of the cooperation, stalled for the

past month, after he met Chief of Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and US envoy Dennis Ross on Thursday.

Arafat spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh said that security cooperation will not be resumed until Israel halts expansion of settlements - (AP)

## Journalists slam PM

The National Federation of Israeli Journalists issued a sharp protest last night against Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's assault against Channel 1 for serving as a conduit for specific political interests.

"The prime minister's statements lack any factual basis. They express his continuing obsession with blaming the media for all his failings - as he has been doing for 10 months," it said in a statement. "Journalist Ayala Hasson and her superiors at Channel 1 deserve professional and public esteem for a first-class journalistic achievement," it continued.

The association also denounced Netanyahu for his "aggressive announcement" on television, without allowing representatives of the media to ask him questions. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

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IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

# 'Deri won't be the Pessah sacrifice'

**T**he more you harass them, the more they will increase and multiply," Interior Ministry Eli Suissa said yesterday, quoting from traditional rabbinic sources. But, despite the season, Suissa was not referring to the Israelites in Egypt. He was talking about Aryeh Deri, Shas and the Bar-On Affair.



Aryeh Deri (Isaac Harari)

The Bar-On Affair, Suissa said, will only serve to strengthen Shas support. The minister has a historical precedent on which to stand. Shas burst onto the national scene in 1984 with four Knesset seats. Four years later, when Deri was still the Golden Boy of Israeli politics and the scandals had not yet begun to plague the party, the Sephardi Torah Guardians Party drew to six seats.

In the 1992 elections, after myriad allegations against Deri began to surface, and after the Yair Levy embezzlement scandal broke, the party stunned many pundits and managed to retain its strength. And then in the last elections - after Deri went to court, Yair Levy went to prison, and Rafael Pinhasi became yet another Shas MK embroiled in a mess of his own - the party floored the very same pundits and increased to 10 seats.

"The more you harass them, the more they will increase and multiply." Indeed. What makes the party's resiliency even more astounding is that in addition to the legal problems, Shas's increase of strength has come despite the disapproval of Rabbi Eliezer Schach and the Ashkenazi haredi establishment, and despite seemingly alienating its natural constituency by supporting the Oslo accords and joining a Labor and Meretz government in 1992.

Now, Suissa told Israel Radio yesterday, taking the Pessah analogy even further, Shas will not allow Aryeh Deri to be the "Pessah sacrifice." The patience of the community is wan-

ing," he warned. Deri was even more blunt. "The notebook is open, and the hand is writing down," he told the party's weekly paper over the weekend, borrowing another image from the liturgy, this time from the high holidays.

His message was clear. The party, the third largest in the country, is keeping track of who is with it, and who is against it, in its hour of need. The settling of accounts will come later. Ironically, the big loser in all this may be Labor, which will - if history is any indication - likely need Shas to form any future coalition. Alienating Shas and Deri, which many in Labor are doing by jumping on the Bar-On bandwagon, has never proven to be a wise political move.

"If elections were held now," Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri was quoted as saying, "Shas would definitely support the candidate of the right."

Eliezer Don-Yehiya, a political science professor at Bar-Ilan University who is an expert on the religious parties, said that regardless of how the affair turns out in the end, it will definitely have an impact on the Shas voters. "It will only strengthen the party," he said.

The feeling among Shas voters, according to Don-Yehiya, is that the system is "persecuting" the party, either because the party is Sephardi, religious, or both. "The feeling," he said, "is that all this is just an attempt to trip up the party."

The party's legal problems, Don-Yehiya said, have not made a substantial negative impression on the Shas constituency for a couple of reasons: First of all, the charges remain in the realm of allegations - Deri has not yet been convicted of anything. And, secondly, the faith of the Shas voter in the judicial system is "not especially high."

Regarding Deri's position inside Shas, Don-Yehiya said that the party's rank-and-file MKs must support the party's strongman. "The Shas MKs cannot withhold support. Look at what happened to those who tried to go against him," Don-Yehiya said, pointing to Yitzhak Peretz and Yosef Azran, once-influential politicians who today are watching politics from the sidelines.

"As long as Deri enjoys the support of [Shas spiritual leader, Rabbi] Ovadia Yosef, his standing in the party will not weaken," Don-Yehiya said, adding that there is no indication at all that Deri's position with Yosef has weakened.

Shas Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai reaffirmed as much in an Israel Radio interview. "A friend is a friend," he said. "Our intention is to stand by him [Deri], strengthen him, not abandon him. We want him to continue to lead the party."

It's the kind of support Prime Minister Netanyahu can only dream about.

ANALYSIS

# PM clears hurdle

By SARAH HONG

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was given more than a good fighting chance to save his political life yesterday. If anything is sure in what may still become an unpredictable chain of events, it is that Netanyahu is a tenacious fighter who has made incredible comebacks in his political career. He escaped with his armor relatively undented yesterday.

He claimed that he was involved in no conspiracy and that Channel 1's original story was disproved. He returned fire toward the media - particularly Channel 1 - which he claimed is engaged in an orchestrated campaign against him, geared to bring him down and change the voters' verdict.

Prior to the State Attorney's Office press conference last night, rumors were rife to the effect that he would be accused in the prosecution's report of having double-crossed his own cabinet and that he would be found unfit to govern. This did not materialize. Had such a judgement indeed appeared in print, Netanyahu would have been effectively wiped out politically even if not charged.

But this did not happen, and thus ministers believed likely to bolt the government in the event of a damning report are not left without any other choice but to demonstratively walk out.

Yisrael Ba'aliya's Natan Sharansky could claim that what emerged from the investigation

does not amount to the 10 percent of the original Channel 1 story which he set as a yardstick for the government's right to exist.

The fact that the report is not exceedingly harsh means that it will not be the trigger of a walk-out, if one occurs at all.

Indeed, a walkout that would endanger the government's existence is now less likely. If anyone does choose to resign demonstratively, it will be because they wanted to do so anyhow, perhaps for other reasons. The report does not oblige them to leave the government.

Netanyahu took the first step yesterday to convince the waverers to stay by his side. He undertook to consult more, not to be the sole ruler, not to cast them aside, as some felt he had.

He is also far less likely to make diplomatic moves to which there is deep opposition in his government. The bottom line is that he might be far less able to make concessions to the Palestinians than he has been thus far.

But the promise to consult more was no doubt made in order to provide the ladder from which Yisrael Ba'aliya and the Third Way can climb down. It might also satisfy Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who said it would be a matter of whether it was a mistake or a conspiracy. The prosecution ruled in favor of the former.

Whether it would work for Finance Minister Dan Meridor is

another matter, since there is personal baggage here as well. But Meridor might be reluctant to bolt alone, with the knowledge that he is unlikely to trigger a domino effect and only lose his own clout. At the same time, his continued stay in the government is sure to be lonely and uncomfortable. His popularity has been seriously eroded lately and he is regarded suspiciously in the Likud.

In all, Netanyahu jumped an enormous hurdle yesterday and appeared to have cleared it. As things stood last night, his government is unlikely to crumble and fall apart in disarray. The opposition will yell and howl, there will be demonstrations, petitions, pontifications and indignant protests, but the prime minister plans to move ahead despite them and trust that they too shall pass.

But will they? His troubles are still not entirely over. As he was addressing the nation and appealing to his supporters last night, Meretz politicians were preparing a petition to the High Court of Justice to overturn the prosecution's decision and put the entire "gang of four" on trial. This is certain to be only the first of numerous petitions.

The High Court, it was suggested in jest, will have to make the petitioners take numbers as they line up.

Just what will happen with each and every such petition is not anything which can be predicted here and now.

# Shas supporters vent anger

By ELI WOHLGELER and LIAT COLLINS

Hundreds of Shas supporters circled the wagons outside the home of Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef last night, while inside party MKs and Rabbi Yitzhak Kadourie - though not Aryeh Deri - met to discuss the future of the government, the party and Deri.

After the meeting, Rabbi David Yosef, son of Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, said the party was calling for a mass demonstration at Hebrew University stadium at Givat Ram at 1 p.m. on Wednesday.

"They ran after us because we are Sephardim. All the Ashkenazim got off with nothing, and the Sephardim are the scapegoats. We can't keep quiet anymore. For seven years they have been chasing us and now in front of the entire state they are separating between blood and blood."

The crowd outside Yosef's home started gathering soon after Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein read his decision on television. The party leaders began arriving at 9:45 p.m., stopping briefly to talk to the dozen reporters waiting outside. Their comments were aimed against Labor, the media and the secular.

"What Aryeh Deri feels and the public of Shas feels is that he is a Paschal Lamb," said MK Shlomo Benizri. "First they talked about four men [getting indicted] and now all that is left is Aryeh Deri."

Benizri said that Shas would not pull out of the government, and that it is making "a distinction between the coalition and the

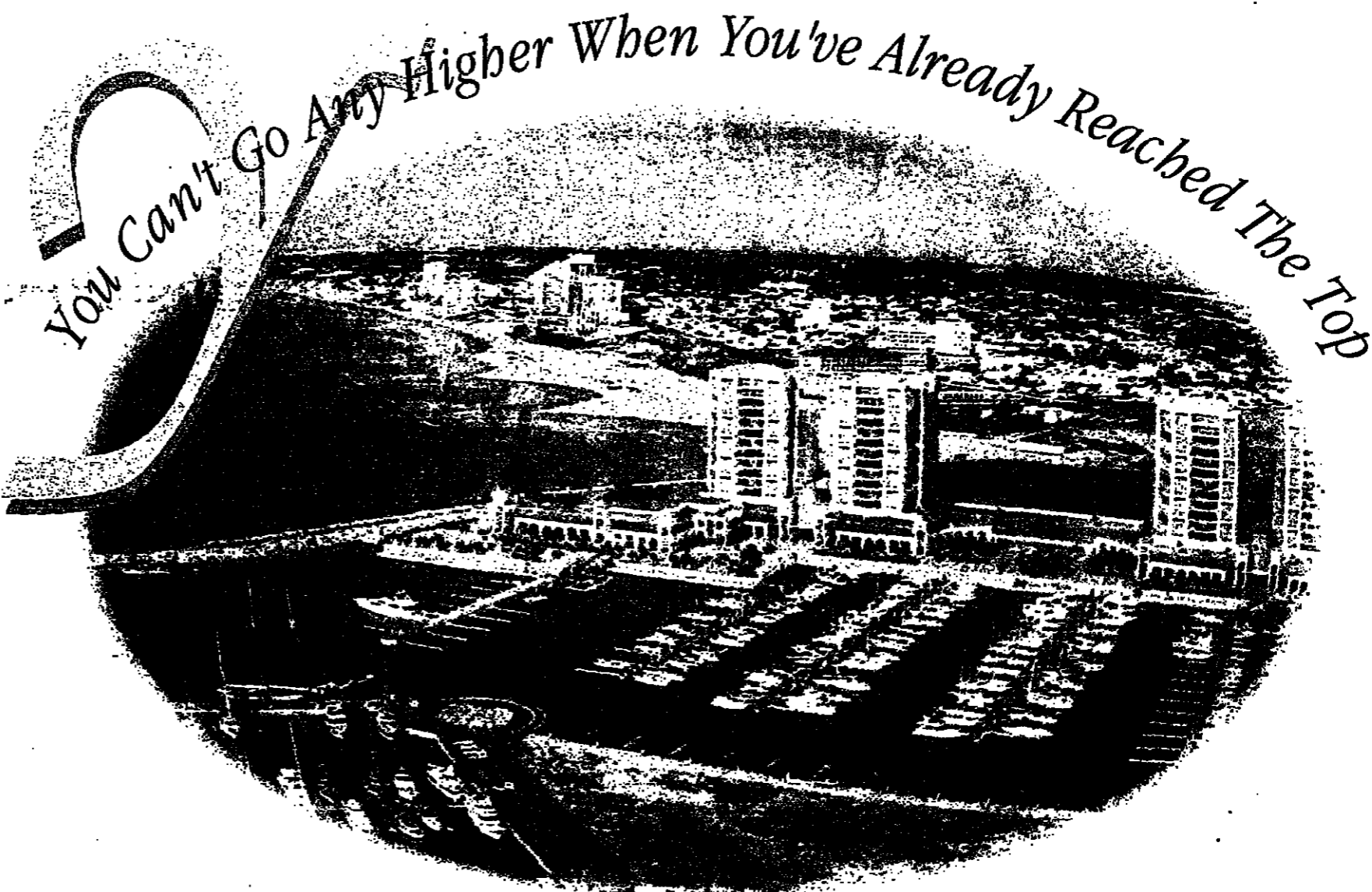
problems of Aryeh Deri." After the reading of the decision, however, Yehuda Avidan, a close aide of Deri, told the Associated Press that "it is my gut feeling that the reaction will be to leave."

At first the crowd was mostly children, shooed out of their homes by mothers too busy preparing for Seder, but then grew into a placard-waving crowd with signs like "[National Investigations chief] Sando Mazor for head of the Labor Party," "Blood libel 1997," and, from the Haggada, "In every generation there arises those who are out to destroy us."

Earlier in the evening, Benizri said the feeling among Shas supporters is that double standards are being applied against their leaders. He said this feeling was strengthened by the decision to indict only Deri for his part in the Bar-On affair.

"Without having read the whole report, I can say that we're talking about a lack of sufficient evidence to indict anyone. We're talking about the evidence of one person - [Deri's former lawyer and an attorney-general hopeful] Dan Avi-Yitzhak - who apparently wanted to get at Deri and that's what makes it so difficult for us to accept the attorney-general's report. Of course we have to accept it as law-abiding people, but it is very difficult. There is a feeling of frustration."

Deri refused to respond to the report until after the start of the Pessah holiday but told reporters: "I will continue the fight."



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**NEWS**

*in brief*

**Court rejects Manbar's remand appeal**

The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday rejected an appeal by suspected arms dealer Nahum Manbar against his remand in custody. Manbar, who was arrested nearly a month ago in a shroud of secrecy on suspicion of harming state security is due to appear for another remand hearing this Friday. A publication ban on his arrest was lifted last week after press reports speculated on the nature of his disappearance, noting that he was suspected of selling arms to Iran. However, only few details on his arrest were allowed to be published. *Raine Marcus*

**Terrorist's sentence lengthened**

The Lod Military Court yesterday accepted the prosecution's argument that the sentence of convicted Hamas terrorist Wisam Farakhat should be lengthened. It sentenced Farakhat, convicted of transporting explosives from Gaza to Tel Sheva and of involvement in the attempted kidnapping of a soldier, from nine-and-a-half to 11 years in addition to a suspended sentence of four years. The court also rejected the appeals of two terrorists involved in the kidnap/murder of Nahshon Wachsmann against the severity of their sentences. It upheld Jihad Yamour's sentence of 30 years and Zakharina Najib's of 22 years. *Itim*

**High Court hears petition against Schnitzer**

The High Court of Justice yesterday heard Labor MK Adisu Massala's petition against the awarding of the Israel Prize for Journalism to former *Ma'ariv* editor, Shmuel Schnitzer. The Ethiopian community was outraged by the decision to award Schnitzer the prize because of a column he wrote on the Falash Mura, calling them "disease-ridden apostates." Justices Theodor Or, Dalia Dorn, and Dorit Beinisch said they would issue their decision later. *Itim*

**Haim Kubersky dies**

Former Interior Ministry director-general Haim Kubersky, 74, died yesterday at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital. *Itim*



Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi is surrounded by reporters at the Justice Ministry before yesterday's announcement that the attorney-general would not indict him. (Brian Hender)

**Sarid to High Court: Indict PM**

By LIAT COLLINS

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid received the news that Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein would press charges only against Shas leader Aryeh Deri by promising to petition the High Court asking that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, and Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office all be indicted.

Sarid said in his petition that both the police investigating team and senior lawyers in the State Prosecutor's Office had found sufficient evidence against the three to indict them. "It's best that a court decides such a fateful issue and not to be satisfied in such a case with just the opinion of the attorney-general," Sarid said.

Labor MKs Yossi Beilin, a candidate for the party leadership, Ofir Pines, and Yona Yahav, said they would also file a petition. They based theirs on the principle laid down by former attorney-general and Supreme Court president, Meir Shamgar, in 1971.

Shamgar ruled that: "It is an extraordinary act not to take steps against a criminal, for a criminal offense for which there is apparent evidence. A prosecutor may take this step only in

extreme circumstances in which it is absolutely clear that the public interest will not be harmed by not pressing charges; harming the public interest also includes damaging the public's belief that justice has been done and that the authorities are not adopting double standards."

The Shamgar principle has been quoted in the few cases in which the High Court has intervened in a decision by the attorney-general not to press charges. The best-known cases were that involving MK Avner Shaki (National Religious Party) when the High Court criticized former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair for ignoring the recommendations of the police to press corruption charges, and when the court warned that not pressing charges against the bank directors involved in the bank shares scandal would leave the public with the impression that equal justice was not being applied.

Legal commentator Moshe Negbi noted yesterday that the High Court did not often interfere with the attorney-general's decision not to press charges, particularly when the reason given was insufficient evidence, as opposed to lack of public interest. Another possibility is that a public commission of inquiry would be established to investigate the issue.

**Police evidence: Deri had tape of plea-bargain deal**

By RAINE MARCUS

The State Attorney's Office yesterday allowed the release of more evidence that lawyer Dan Avi-Yitzhak gave to police investigating the Bar-On Affair, including a claim that MK Aryeh Deri had a tape of a plea-bargain deal with attorney Roni Bar-On.

Police have said Avi-Yitzhak was the central witness on whose testimony they based their recommendations in the affair.

Avi-Yitzhak told police Deri had said he was in possession of a recorded conversation in which Bar-On had discussed arranging a plea bargain for him in his criminal trial. Deri allegedly let Avi-Yitzhak understand that if Bar-On

was appointed attorney-general, he would arrange the plea bargain.

Deri told Avi-Yitzhak that "now the situation is different. I have a tape of Roni Bar-On," the police evidence read.

Avi-Yitzhak, who had represented Deri in his trial for financial irregularities, resigned from the case on February 19, a month after Channel 1 came out with its report on the affair.

A few weeks ago, journalists petitioned Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court demanding that Avi-Yitzhak's evidence be released. The court then released some of the details. Yesterday, in advance of the publication of its report on the Bar-On Affair, the State Attorney's Office told the court to disclose more evidence.

**Six killed in road accidents**

Four people were killed and three others injured - two of them seriously - in collision between a pick-up van and a lorry on the Tel Aviv to Haifa coastal road yesterday afternoon. Police said it appeared that the truck suddenly pulled onto the side of the road and the van, that was apparently following close behind, failed to stop in time and crashed into the rear. In Jerusalem, a four-year-old girl was killed by a car traveling in the Ramot neighborhood yesterday morning. The driver was later detained by police, who said he was driving after having his license suspended. According to police, the man asked his brother to go to the police station and say he had run over the girl, but it soon became clear that the brother was lying. Police will ask a court tomorrow for an extension of the remand of the driver and his brother. In Ashdod, a man was killed and another seriously hurt when the driver apparently lost control of his car and crashed into a security barrier. *David Rudge and Itim*

**Kimha Defis'ha**

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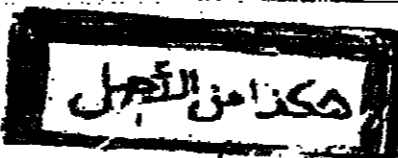
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# IDF renews hunt for Hamas fronts

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The Civil Administration has resumed intensive efforts to crack down on Hamas-supported mosques, social welfare, education, and health institutions in a renewed campaign to strangle its armed wing.

The operation, coincidentally named "Be'ur Hametz" (burning the leaven), began late last week with searches in mosques in Kafar Tzurif. The searches were carried out by members of the Civil Administration, who found alleged incitement material and praise for Moussa Ranimat, the Hamas bomber who was killed setting off the March 21 bomb at a Tel Aviv cafe, which killed three women and injured 47 people.

Brig-Gen. David Shahaf, head of the Civil Administration in Judea and Samaria, gave the green light for the revival of Be'ur Hametz last week.

"It was actually never stopped, but had been put on a back burner," said Lt. Peter Lerner, spokesman for the Civil Administration in Judea and Samaria. "Now we intend to continue with our on-going operations, depending on the need throughout areas C and B."

Lerner said the searches are being carried out by civil administration officers, instead of other security bodies, since they are Arabic-speakers and had originally implemented the program.

Col. Yehonatan Dahob-Halevi, assistant adviser for Arab affairs in the civil administration, has prepared a document that describes the goals of the operation and contains dozens of sites to be searched, including mosques, charity committees, schools, and welfare institutions. The document is being distributed to all the civil administration liaison commanders.

Israel sees the Hamas social welfare infrastructure as the foundation for the Hamas military wing, since it funnels not only money to the terrorists, but also helps recruit supporters. Previous efforts led to the capture two years ago of a Hamas terror cell in Bitin, near Ramallah.

But pressure on the Hamas bodies decreased when the Palestinian Authority took over. But a senior security source said, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat has refrained from moving against Hamas.



## In solidarity with Ron Arad

Two volunteers (right) from the International Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers, Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza managing director Roni Aloni and Yona Baumel (left) pose at the solidarity corner for missing IAF navigator Ron Arad, which was inaugurated yesterday at the hotel. The corner has a book which hotel guests and members of the public can express solidarity with Arad. Meanwhile, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai flatly denied a rumor that Israeli commandos, in a daring raid, had succeeded in freeing Arad and brought him home. "I regret this great wave of rumors. To my regret there is nothing new regarding navigator Maj. Ron Arad. We are continuing to search in every way and get to every possible place to find his location and condition," Mordechai told Army Radio.

(Top: Arieh O'Sullivan; Photo: Ebraim Kishitok)

## 2 SLA soldiers killed in Hizbullah attacks

By DAVID RUDGE

A South Lebanese Army officer and soldier were killed in separate bomb attacks in the Jezzine enclave north of the security zone yesterday.

In response, IAF planes blasted terrorist targets in the Jezzine region. The IDF spokesman said the pilots reported accurate hits, and all the planes returned safely to their bases.

There were no immediate reports of casualties as a result of the air raid, which was apparently aimed at Hizbullah targets in the area.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the bomb attacks in which the SLA officer, Capt. Assad Namour, and an unidentified soldier were killed.

Reports from south Lebanon said a bomb, which had apparent-

ly been planted in or underneath Namour's car, exploded when he got into the vehicle which was parked by his home in a village near Jezzine.

Searches were carried out by SLA troops in the area, and another bomb was discovered and safely neutralized near the officer's home.

Later, however, the SLA soldier was killed when another bomb exploded near two vehicles traveling on the road from Jezzine to Bechasin, Namour's home village.

A short while afterwards, Hizbullah gunmen opened mortar fire at an IDF position and two SLA outposts in the eastern sector of the security zone. There were no casualties.

The bombings yesterday brought to five the number of SLA soldiers killed in Hizbullah attacks in the past few weeks.

## Health workers suspend protests over Pessah

By JUDY SIEGEL

Two labor disputes in the public health system were postponed yesterday while another simmered. Government hospital administrative and maintenance personnel agreed to postpone their sanctions at least until after Pessah and to prepare hospital kitchens for Pessah at the last minute.

Union head Batya Levy has been demanding an additional 1,500 salary grade increases according to an agreement signed recently that hasn't been implemented.

Shocked by the possibility of kosher-for-Pessah kitchens, Knesset Finance Committee chairman Rabbi Avraham Ravitz promised his committee would meet after the holiday to discuss funding.

Health Ministry and Treasury negotiators last night managed to

halt a strike by Magen David Adom workers that began in the afternoon, shutting down mobile intensive care units and halting the supply of blood to the hospitals. The workers have been demanding for years that an extra medic be assigned to accompany each medic/driver who goes out on a call. The union said it was tired of writing letters to officials and threatening sanctions that got nowhere, but after receiving some commitments, agreed to postpone the work action.

Sanctions by 700 doctors of the Hadassah Medical Organization continue in its two hospitals and medical school, with no end in sight.

Meanwhile, some 2,800 nurses' jobs will be added to the public hospitals over the next five years according to an agreement signed by Health Minister Yehoshua Matza.

# WORLD

in brief

### Top Northern fugitive arrives in Seoul

SEOUL (AP) — The highest ranking official ever to flee North Korea declared the failure of its communist system and warned that it could choose war as a desperate way out.

Hwang Jang Yop, a former confidante of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, flew in from the Philippines, ending a 67-day odyssey to reach South Korea and bringing Seoul an information bonanza on the secretive Pyongyang government.

Hwang, 74, said he defected to his homeland's enemy to tell the world that North Korea could start a war while its people "went without clothes and were starving."

### Indian president approves Gujral

NEW DELHI (AP) — Inder Kumar Gujral, the new United Front coalition leader, was appointed as India's next prime minister, ending three weeks of chaotic political maneuvering.

Gujral and his Cabinet will be sworn in today by President Shankar Dayal Sharma, Indian news agencies reported.

Gujral, 77, will be the third prime minister India has had since elections last year left no party with a clear parliamentary majority.

### Election fever grips France

PARIS (Reuters) — Election fever gripped France as speculation mounted that conservative President Jacques Chirac would announce a snap general election today to clear the decks in the drive for a single European currency.

Opinion polls showed voters would approve of bringing forward the vote due next March and predicted a close battle.

Amid apparently orchestrated leaks by pro-government politicians, Chirac's office was tight-lipped except to deny a report in the daily *Le Monde* that the president was planning a sharp shift towards free market economic policies.

### Bulgaria's UDF cruises to victory

SOFIA (Reuters) — With almost all results counted from Bulgaria's parliamentary election, the reformist Union of Democratic Forces was set for a comfortable majority enabling it to push through tough but vital economic reforms.

The electoral commission said the UDF and its coalition allies had won 52 percent of the votes cast. Their victory seals the rejection of the ex-communist Socialists in Bulgaria.

### Major defends party's Euro squabbles

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister John Major defended the right of Conservative Party legislators to express their opposition to a European single currency, although he said he found it frustrating.

But the opposition Labor Party's treasury spokesman Gordon Brown said the governing Tories were "a party in civil war" and were incapable of governing.

About a third of Conservative candidates for the May 1 national election have rejected a single European currency, to start in 1999.

### Timothy Leary's final trip

BERKELEY (AP) — It'll be the wildest trip yet for LSD guru Timothy Leary.

His ashes, and those of 23 others, will blast off into space aboard a Pegasus rocket to be launched today in the Canary Islands.

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## No clean bill of health

The report released yesterday by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel on the Bar-On scandal will be studied under a microscope and waved in the faces of the coalition and opposition in the coming days and weeks. On the one hand, insufficient evidence was found to indict Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for allowing the appointment of the attorney-general to be influenced, for personal gain, by an indicted public official. On the other, the report found that there was "substantial suspicion" that such a serious and criminal breach of trust did occur.

It was not a proud day for the Netanyahu government. Though a victory in political terms, the lack of an indictment of Netanyahu, Justice Minister Hanegbi, and Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman — whose case remains open — is far from a clean bill of health. The report went out of its way not to remove suspicion from the central figures. Rather, there was a "factual basis" behind some of the key charges, but insufficient evidence "at the level required by criminal law."

Given these findings, it was shocking for Netanyahu, in his immediate televised reaction, to act as if the entire episode had been proven to be a conspiracy to overthrow — by scandal — Israel's duly elected government. Indeed, Arbel and Rubinstein specifically stated that the initial report by Channel 1 was not responsible.

To claim, as Netanyahu does, that the media simply invented or unreasonably reported charges against him is a severe distortion of events. The initial television report was not tightly woven enough to stand up in court, but nor was it plucked from thin air.

Netanyahu cannot ignore the fact that it was his nomination of an attorney-general so glaringly lacking in qualifications that invited suspicions that other motivations were involved. It is Netanyahu's fault that the legitimate explanations of the nomination stand like a weak reed against the suspicions of the media, the public, the police, the state attorney and the attorney-general.

That said, suspicions, even serious ones, are not grounds to topple a government. They are grounds for what Netanyahu has pledged, a serious "cleaning house." Aside from his irresponsible attacks on the media and the opposition for a crisis that is mostly his own creation, Netanyahu said all the right things: He admitted that the Bar-On appointment was a mistake, apologized, "pledged" to fix the problem by appointing a cabinet committee on nominations

and, just as importantly, promised to open up his decision-making process to others.

In essence, Netanyahu admitted that he will not rely so heavily on his own judgment, which in the case of Bar-On was found to be, at best, dramatically flawed. It is certainly arguable that, on a broad range of issues, Netanyahu's penchant for shutting out most of his own cabinet has been damaging to the prime minister, his government, and the country.

It is worth noting that if Netanyahu had conferred on the Bar-On nomination rather than ramming it through the cabinet, it would surely have never even been brought to the cabinet for approval. It should not have taken a scandal of these proportions to change Netanyahu's mode of governing.

Most Israelis will probably not consider the Arbel-Rubinstein report to be sufficient grounds for Netanyahu's resignation. But even if a court does not rule on whether a criminal "breach of trust" has occurred, there is little doubt that trust in the government has been severely breached.

Perhaps the trust was never really there, but now, more than ever, it must be built and to do this, Netanyahu must certainly fulfill his freshly minted and long overdue pledges to broaden the decision making process.

Beyond this, however, a real "cleaning house" means going beyond what is required by law, to what is required to make people believe their government meets at least minimum standards of cleanliness.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi was found to have kept from the cabinet, Supreme Court President Aharon Barak's opposition to Bar-On's appointment. The fact that Arbel and Rubinstein did not find such behavior to be criminal does not mean it is acceptable from a justice minister. This refusal to share all the information on so critical a matter, coupled with his indifference to the possibility that Bar-On's nomination might have been tainted, warrant Hanegbi's removal from this office.

Further, Netanyahu needs to come to his own conclusions as to whether his chief of staff, Avigdor Lieberman, received and acted upon a campaign by "persons being tried for criminal offenses [to join] together to determine who would be attorney-general." The report states that "it appears from the evidence" that there is such "a suspicion." Netanyahu should not be satisfied with such a question hanging over his own staff. Depending on the completion of the report concerning Lieberman, Netanyahu will likely have to part from his loyal aide if his house cleaning is to be taken seriously.

## A bitter taste

SUSAN HÄTTIS ROLEF

Despite the decision by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel not to indict either Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu or Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, there remain several very disturbing aspects to the whole Bar-On affair.

The first of them is the cocky attitude of Channel 1 correspondent Ayala Hasson. There is no

disturbing is that the leaks enabled the government's well-wishers to divert attention from the real problem of the twisted norms that the affair uncovered, to a hysterical and totally unfounded accusation that the "leftist-secular establishment" is trying to undo the electorate's democratic decision by devious means.

This is closely connected with another highly disturbing phenomenon uncovered by the scandal: A large percentage of the population, perhaps even a majority, doesn't really understand what was wrong with the way Bar-On was appointed. In other words, even if all of Ayala Hasson's accusations were accurate, many or most Israelis don't believe them to constitute a political earthquake.

So what if Deri, who is currently standing on trial on criminal charges, threatened to retaliate if Dan Avi-Yitzhak was appointed and Roni Bar-On was not? So what if the Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office Avigdor Lieberman, transmitted Deri's threats to the prime minister rather than send him packing? So what if Hanegbi was not absolutely honest in the way he presented the candidacy of Bar-On to the government?

So what if Netanyahu let himself be led, for the umpteenth time, into approving a totally inappropriate appointment? And even if Hanegbi and Netanyahu were in breach of some "herd" norms, why on earth should they resign? Did anyone die as a result?

In addition, there are too many people around who really and truly believe that prime ministers (as long as they are right-wing) and rabbis (as long as they are Orthodox) should be above the law.

FINALLY, we are left with the disturbing fact that, despite the protestations of the personalities

### The decision not to indict the PM does not mean he is innocent

doubt that the story she revealed was of supreme importance, even though there were numerous inaccuracies in her story and, of the central characters, only Aryeh Deri is to be indicted. Ever since she first came out with the story, Hasson has been acting as if she were the cat's whiskers. She isn't. She seems more like the cat's tail: the cat being attorney Dan Avi-Yitzhak, who apparently used Hasson to settle accounts with those who prevented his own appointment as attorney-general, especially MK Aryeh Deri who was his client until recently, and with whom he appears to be more than fed up.

The second is the fact that throughout the police investigation — which was difficult to carry out due to the identity of the personalities involved and the problematic nature of the evidence against them — there were constant tendentious leaks. The fact that the leaks took place in the first place, and could not be stopped, is disturbing in itself.

However, what I find even more

## Dry Bones



AND A HAPPY PASSOVER TO US ALL!

involved that there is nothing to the affair, most of them used the excuse "I do not remember" whenever confronted by police investigators with evidence that seemed to contradict their basic claim to innocence.

If they are so sure of their innocence, why all the forgetfulness? People who are really sure of their innocence are more than eager to tell their side of the story, to contradict the charges against them, to prove that the other side must be lying.

But there is another explanation to the epidemic of lapses memories. The key suspects all received legal advice or are themselves

lawyers, and from a purely legal point of view, even if they are all innocent of any serious offense, they would rather not stand trial due to lack of evidence, than to stand trial and possibly be found guilty of some relatively minor irregularities (as recently happened to several public figures).

The fuller the police files are of "I do not remember" answers, the less likely the deposition of indictments. The ramifications of this legal exercise will be debated for some time to come. Whatever the fallout, a bitter taste will remain.

The writer is a political scientist.

## Put peace before the process

YEDIDYA ATLAS

Dennis Ross, US special envoy to the Mideast Peace Process, visited the country last week. He did not come to determine whether PA Chairman Arafat no longer views violence and terrorism as legitimate negotiating tools, but rather to devise a face-saving formula to allow Arafat to meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu, and to enable the peace process to continue as before.

US State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns said at the end of last week that Ross presented Israel and the PA with proposals to "bridge the gaps between the sides," as if the current dispute were over mere textual differences rather than Palestinian terrorism.

This means: the Palestinians continue to violate the Oslo accords with impunity, and Israel is expected to make concrete unilateral concessions as "confidence-building measures."

And yet, as noted in a recent *New York Post* editorial: "Oslo helped elevate the [PLO] group in the eyes of many from a terror organization to a legitimate governing authority. But Arafat has not worn well this new mantle of legitimacy. He insists that the violence will not stop until Israel halts its construction ... in Jerusalem."

Interestingly, senior members of Congress are increasingly up in arms over the Clinton administration's apparently deliberate

obtuseness where Yasser Arafat and terrorism is concerned. Senator Rick Santorum (Rep. Pennsylvania), for example, wrote to President Clinton on March 26 that "Arafat must finally understand that he cannot maintain good relations with the United States if he continues to wink and nod at terrorists while negotiating with Israel."

NEVERTHELESS, Clinton persists in ignoring Arafat's culpabil-

ity, the Clinton administration has thus far failed to react to Arafat's forked tongue.

Even *The Washington Post* exposed Arafat's lie. In its coverage of the incident, the paper related that "Arafat and his lieutenants promoted a radically different account of the Gaza explosions. They said the second of the two incidents ... was not a suicide bombing, but an unprovoked Israeli attack on innocent Palestinians."

### Dennis Ross failed to address the main issue: Palestinian terrorism

But then the piece continues: "Interviewed this morning outside the first bombing scene, at the Netzarim settlement, near the coast just south of Gaza City, Palestinian Maj.-Gen. Abdul Razeq Majadeh told *Washington Post* special correspondent Saud Abu Ramadan that two Palestinian men wearing military uniforms, and carrying on their bodies about five kilograms of explosives each, blew themselves up in nearly simultaneous explosions at about 7 a.m. Brig.-Gen. Saeb Ajez, the Palestinian commander of northern Gaza, gave a similar account at the scene."

"Both men ceased speaking publicly after Arafat's version was

transmitted by the Palestinian press agency, WAFA, and broadcast on Voice of Palestine radio." Initially the Islamic Jihad spokesman told the Arafat line. But the next day, members of the organization's military branch distributed a poster in Gaza and Judea and Samaria sharply criticizing the organization's leadership for refusing to claim responsibility for the bombings. The leaders of Islamic Jihad's military branch claimed that the organization's political spokesmen knew perfectly well that the two bombers were members of the organization, but were forced by the Palestinian Authority to blame Israel for the attacks.

Dennis Ross's visit, with its almost business-as-usual attitude leads one to conclude that the Clinton administration is more interested in the process than in the peace. Congressman Ben Gilman, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, stated recently: "Regrettably, [Arafat's] recent meeting with Hamas leaders and the subsequent release of a Hamas terrorist only serves to send the wrong signal. ... It is time for ME Arafat to implement the commitments he made in the Oslo accords."

For Gilman and his congressional colleagues the documented facts are self-evident. Sadly, for Clinton they are not.

The writer is a senior correspondent for *Arutz 7*.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ANTI-ISRAELI SENTIMENTS

Sir, — In his article of March 26, "Yes, aren't dreams lovely?" P. David Horvik states that "unpalatable though it may be — all possible evidence points to an abiding hatred of Israel among large parts of our neighbors' elite and populace, including the Palestinian Authority, and to their belief that the most barbaric acts against Israel are not only justified, but admirable."

I am a child of a Holocaust survivor and I take exception to this assertion. In my opinion, it is essential for the Israeli people to appreciate their position in the Middle East today and the basis for the anti-Israel sentiments being expressed by Israel's neighbors. Arab anger towards Israel is now rooted in the way Israel manages its power over the Palestinian people. Mr. Horvik insists that Arab "hatred" of Israel is intrinsic and

permanent. His mind-set is that Israel has no power to influence Arab sentiments and therefore has no obligation to act as an ethical and responsible neighbor. Those who share this view are still fighting the battle for Israel's right to exist that was won quite some time ago. Times have drastically changed since Israel's birth as a nation-state 50 years ago. Israel is now the most powerful nation in the region both militarily and economically. Arab willingness to negotiate peace with Israel is an acknowledgment of this fact.

The greatest challenge for Israel now is psychological, to accept its earned power and end the cycle of fear and insecurity that has plagued the Jewish and other peoples throughout history. Israel's current position of power is a very real test of the character of the Jewish nation. Israel's opportunity

and responsibility is to negotiate a fair and just peace with its neighbors. This is what the Palestinians desire. I understand their sentiments towards Israel for I have seen the conditions under which they live. I think the Palestinians deserve our great respect. Instead, they endure repeated humiliation.

Current Arab sentiments towards Israel result from Israel's failure to accept its position of power and act responsibly. Let us recognize the opportunity before us to build an inspired regional community based on mutual trust and respect. We have the power and we have the responsibility. Perhaps we can learn lessons from what happened to Israel in biblical times when it failed to adhere to the highest moral standards.

BERNARD LENDMAN  
Arlington, Virginia.

### EXAGGERATED

Sir, — *Newsweek* reports that the Israeli Consulate in New York City continues to lead all other consulates in the annual number of parking tickets. No surprise to anyone — a well-known fact that, for some reason, some Israelis are even proud of. But how many know that the consulate owns 115 vehicles compared to 30 by the French Consulate, 54 by China, and 24 by Russia? Even the dullest of minds must surely comprehend that this number of vehicles is truly exaggerated.

ROBERT OLINSKY  
Petha Tikva.

### STONE-THROWING

Sir, — In contrast to Marwan Barghout's view that stone-throwing does not constitute violence, a US court of law judged otherwise.

A few years ago, a teenager in Baltimore was arrested for throwing stones from an overpass to the highway below. No one was hurt and no damage done. But the youngster was sentenced to a long prison term for attempted murder.

HADASSAH PRERO  
Jerusalem.

### WITHDRAWING SETTLEMENTS

Sir, — I visited both Israel and the Occupied Territories in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza on several occasions between 1977 and 1992, meeting both Israelis and Palestinians. In 1992, and since, I have asked Israeli ministers and ambassadors whether the settlements in the most exposed and sensitive places, e.g., Hebron and Gaza, could not be removed. Such action would be entirely in accordance with UN Resolution 242 and the principle of land for peace.

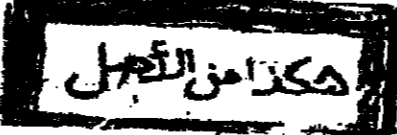
The settlements in question cannot be said to contribute to the security of Israel; they are in fact a liability. The quid pro quo should be an international guarantee of permanent access for bona-fide religious reasons for Israelis and Jews from the rest of the world, to such holy places as the burial place of Abraham in Hebron, and the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, in parallel with access by Christians and Moslems to their holy places. A precedent for withdrawing settlements exists in respect of those in Sinai, under the Camp David Agreements. There were of course objections and protests, but both

settlements and military installations were moved.

I realize that the present government of Israel depends to some extent upon the votes of the religious parties in the Knesset. I trust that this short-term political situation will not be allowed to put at risk the existing peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan and to make impossible a negotiated peace, with Syria and Lebanon. The outside world has the strongest possible interest in a comprehensive Middle Eastern peace. This should not be sacrificed for the sake of new and illegal Israeli settlements. The EU should make access to European markets conditional on the observance of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Human Rights clauses of the Oslo Agreement.

The time has come to ensure that UN resolutions do not remain a dead letter and that the essence of undertakings, given in Madrid in 1991 and Oslo, in 1993 is fully respected.

LORD HYLTON  
London.





# Oslo is not a one-way street

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, in an interview with Steve Rodan, maintains his original assessment of the Bar-On Affair, and prescribes three principles for reaching an agreement with the Palestinians.



'The Palestinians have systematically abrogated their commitments.'

(Ariel Jeruzolimski)

**B**inyamin Netanyahu shuffles his papers behind his desk and then lights up his cigar. A telephone rings. The Mossad chief is waiting outside. "Just a few more minutes," Netanyahu says in a hushed voice.

Outside the office, the mood is relaxed. The radio plays nonstop reports and commentary on the Bar-On Affair.

But Netanyahu's senior aides are chatting. Some saunter into the lecture room next to the prime minister's office for some catered food.

The assessment by several of Netanyahu's aides was optimistic: The prime minister and his government would survive the Bar-On Affair.

Some sources close to the prime minister are already discussing the day after the charges are dropped. They want Netanyahu to call for an investigation into who in the police was responsible for the leaks about the proceedings.

They want their boss to go for blood. But they agree Netanyahu is unlikely to do that. By that time, the prime minister and the public will be occupied with far more important things, they say.

Palestinian terrorism, for one thing.

infrastructure.

**How long can such a situation last?**

Not very long. It's not a static issue. It can either improve or it can deteriorate. If it deteriorates, everyone will lose.

**IN YOUR book Fighting Terrorism you say that the US and other Western countries should refuse to transfer any funds to the PLO until it lives up to its part of the Oslo agreement. Why, then, do pro-Israeli lobbyists in Washington say that your government continues to support US aid to the PA?**

That's false. We're not lobbying for the PLO. That funding is based totally on the compliance of the PLO to the Oslo agreements.

When the next review comes up we'll say very clearly how they perform. We won't mince any words. My hope is that by that time they'll change their behavior.

**You've warned many times of the danger of Oslo. At this stalemate, what are your considerations concerning throwing in the towel and saying the process is**

"trust but verify."

So all of our movements have to be structured in such a way as to deter violations and create disincentives.

**But accelerating the talks could also bring forward the confrontation.**

I think there are three requirements to conclude talks successfully. One is that the Palestinians have to abandon the idea that every time there is a disagreement they resort to violence. As long as they turn to this we can't have peace, because the nature of relations between neighbors is that they will have disagreements.

The second is reciprocity. We released prisoners, did Hebron [fulfilling commitments by the previous government]. At the same time, the Palestinians have systematically abrogated their commitments. They have not fought terror, [and are] not revising the PLO covenant, not confiscating illegal weapons, not extraditing murderers, not jailing terrorist leaders.

So, so far it has been a one-sided agreement.

Third, we need to have the

**Do we have any influence on Russia and can the US help?**

The Russians deny that they are helping. But our information is solid that there has been a transfer of Russian technology to Iran for ballistic missiles. I think that after Iran's use of terrorists on European soil, as conclusively demonstrated by a German court, no one should have any doubts of the dangers such a regime would pose if it had ballistic missiles, with or without nonconventional warheads. Because this would not be a threat only to Israel but a great threat to everyone concerned, including Russia. I urged Yeltsin to change this policy.

**Did you offer him an economic incentive?**

Well, I did say that if the issue was to shore up their defense industries then cooperation [with] Israel would be able to offset any short-term gain they would have from the transfer of technology. And we decided on the first joint Russian-Israeli defense project.

But I can't say that the Russian supply of ballistic technology to Iran has stopped. It's a top concern to Israel and it should be a top concern to anybody concerned with peace and stability not only in the Middle East but in a much wider area.

**Let me turn to Syria. Is that country preparing for war?**

We see no immediate signs of that, but one always has to be vigilant. I would hope that the Syrians understand that it is in their interests to renew peace negotiations with us. As in the Palestinian case, negotiations with the Syrians means just that. It doesn't mean we accept their dictates for a final settlement in advance. But I gather that this is difficult to absorb. So, we will have to let time and diplomacy create the formula for the necessary resumption of the talks.

I didn't say we will have an immediate cut. But by the end of my term I expect to have a broad economic policy. That policy hasn't changed. Our economic difficulties [were] bequeathed to us by four years of excessive spending, irresponsible spending. We will have to undergo difficult times. But I am convinced that the Israeli economy has a brilliant

future as a technological hub of the eastern hemisphere. We are producing a tremendous amount of start-up companies.

**What about the government's privatization program? Has it kept pace of your expectations?**

After less than two months, we've already sold close to NIS 1 billion of government assets. Our target for the end of the year is to sell NIS 4b., including Bank Hapoalim, which comprises 8 percent of our GDP. I hope that this and other moves will give the Israeli economy the opportunity to realize its potential.

**The conversion bill has angered and confused non-Orthodox Jews in the US and in much of the West. Can Israel afford to alienate these large segments of the Jewish people at a time of growing international isolation?**

Most don't know what the facts are. The facts are that the proposed conversion bill changes nothing that has existed since the founding of the State of Israel. Conversions done by Reform and Conservative rabbis outside the state have always been recognized by Israel. They are totally legitimate, kosher. That is not going to change.

For 49 years, the rabbinate in Israel, which is Orthodox, has been performing conversions.

That is not going to change. The only thing that will change is [that] what is a de-facto situation will be de jure, because of a court challenge to the status quo.

I am aware of the anxiety that even this small change produces among certain quarters. I have suggested that the litigation be dropped and that the legislation be frozen.

more thought-out way. I think there is a simple way out of the predicament and I hope that people of goodwill will help me.

**What is your message to the Jewish people for this Passah?**

Let me take the opportunity to wish all your readers a *Hag Sameah*. We're going through a period of some difficulty. We went through the easy part of Gaza and Jericho.

Now, we are in the important struggle for the unity of Jerusalem, which is the rock on which the Jewish people have stood for thousands of years.

There are times that a nation has to define a red line. This is one of them. I am confident that if we stand firm and show our willingness to continue the process, this policy will prove itself. It will prove itself because no other policy is possible.

If we give in on Jerusalem then we give in on everything. If we stand on Jerusalem we'll be able to achieve the peace that we've always dreamed of.

**"In a democratic society, people are presumed innocent until they're proven guilty."**

**What is the Bar-On Affair and what is your role in it?**

I haven't changed any of my original assessments.

**Do you see a reason to ask for the suspension of [Justice Minister Tzahi] Hanegbi?**

No. I think in a democratic society people are presumed innocent until they're proven guilty. And despite the press campaign that seeks to try people before the attorney-general presents his conclusions, let alone before the court considers their case, I find no reason why I should address the issue.

**There are reports that the green light is still on from Arafat and that is compounded by reports of Palestinian Authority arms smuggling and illegal arms production. How serious are these?**

We have reports about this. They are not fully conclusive.

Obviously, we are concerned with other violations. Look at what happened in Hebron. We have buffer zones that are supposed to be used to stop Palestinian demonstrators. The opposite has happened. The Palestinian police actually pushed demonstrators into this area and used them for launches of attacks against Israeli soldiers and citizens, rock-throwing and fire-bombing.

**What about the green light?**

It's still not been turned off. We have reports of the possibility of terrorist attacks. We are taking the necessary precautions. One can only hope the Palestinian Authority understands the enormous damage to their interest as well as ours if these attacks take place. We have not seen the degree of cooperation required by our two security services. We have not seen the independent actions taken against the terrorist

over, or concluding that we haven't done enough and we have to make concessions to ensure that Oslo continues?

I think at the moment we're undergoing an inevitable adjustment in Palestinian expectations. They interpreted Oslo to be a one-way street: Israel would fulfill its obligations and they would not. Israel would accept the Palestinian positions on final settlement and the Palestinians would make no compromises on their side.

Given what they have been habituated to over the last four years, one can understand how they developed these expectations. Nevertheless, they're way off the mark. When we were elected we said we would honor Oslo, but we said we would expect the Palestinians to honor Oslo as well.

One of the things we expected was that the Palestinians [would] take action against terrorism. Secondly, we do not intend to go back to the 1967 borders. We are against a Palestinian state because we think it could pose a mortal threat to the survival of Israel. And we're certainly not going to divide Jerusalem.

They are now trying to coerce us to accept the Palestinian dictate by the use of terror and political and economic warfare. That won't work.

**What's the point if there is no confidence in the other side?**

I don't buy this thing of confidence. Was there confidence between the US and the Soviet Union? Of course not. The US didn't trust the Soviets one whit. So Reagan adopted the policy of

expectations of both sides brought to realistic proportions. We made this adjustment to reality when we accepted the Oslo accords.

That has not happened on the Palestinian side. They are still talking of getting most or all of the West Bank. That means the gap between the sides is too large. Arafat has to do what I did: move to take the tough decisions even if he receives criticism from his own constituency.

Without adherence to these three principles, we will not have a solution.

**HAVE YOU made a commitment to either European or US leaders that you will delay construction of Har Homa?**

I have made it clear to anybody I have talked to that there won't be a change in my policy. And the Palestinian demand that we stop the construction will simply delay any possibility of any resolution of this crisis.

**So there won't be a suspension of the project?**

Correct.

**YOU WENT to Russia and raised with President Boris Yeltsin his country's support for Iran's ballistic missile program. But the Russian help continues.**

**"Arafat has to do what I did: Move to take the tough decisions even if he receives criticism from his own constituency."**

**Did you offer him an economic incentive?**

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**IN CONGRESS last year, you said you would welcome a cut in US aid to Israel. But officials say there are no such plans to proceed with this issue.**

It should be clear that this is my preference because I value the Reform and Conservative movements as an integral part of Jewish life, an indispensable element for millions of Jews.

So, it would be wise to withdraw the litigation and address the issue in a more careful and

future as a technological hub of the eastern hemisphere. We are producing a tremendous amount of start-up companies.

**What about the government's privatization program? Has it kept pace of your expectations?**

After less than two months, we've already sold close to NIS 1 billion of government assets. Our target for the end of the year is to sell NIS 4b., including Bank Hapoalim, which comprises 8 percent of our GDP. I hope that this and other moves will give the Israeli economy the opportunity to realize its potential.

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EY WERE SEARCHING FOR DIRTY ON THE PRIME MINISTER  
TO US ALL!



# Ibiza islanders to rediscover Jewish roots at communal Seder

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

While many Israelis will head out of town for the Seder tonight, Gloria and Leslie Mound are going a bit farther: to the island of Ibiza in Spain, where they will run a Seder for their adopted "family," a group of Marranos they met just over two decades ago.

The Mounds began learning about Marranos while living in England 25 years ago. But the couple might never have crossed paths with the Marranos of Ibiza had they themselves not been observant Jews. As such, they brought along their own food and utensils when they took vacations.

"We used to go to Ibiza on holiday," Gloria Mound, 67, said last week as she busily reviewed her list of provisions for the upcoming Seder. "We had friends there who came from the Spanish mainland who knew we were Orthodox. They also suspected they themselves were of Jewish origin. They had been brought up half-a-year on the island and half on the mainland, and told us that when they went to school on Ibiza, there were Jews there. They introduced us to some of the families."

"These people are very insular, not interested in talking to strangers," she said of their initial contact with the community, in 1972. "At the beginning, they'd tell us nothing, even though we were friends of friends. Eventually, we won their confidence and they began to tell and show us things."

Among their discoveries was a 14th-century Megilat Esther found by a resident who worked in a local government office. Mound said the man found a piece of the megilla, which eventually led to the discovery of 13

or 14 pieces, constituting 85 percent of the scroll. The megilla was later verified as genuine by Hebrew University experts and the Spanish government and is now being restored, she says.

"We also discovered four secret synagogues, one on Ibiza which is under a convent, one on Formentera which is a nearby island, and two on Minorca. The one on Formentera was in use for Jewish religious purposes until the Civil War in 1936, and dates from about 1610.

"People started to tell us about customs in their families: That they didn't mix milk with meat, that one day of the year they didn't eat, that some of them didn't eat pork or ham. Some of the men were circumcised, some not. They only married among themselves, at least until the '60s when the tourists came. Before then, arranged marriages were commonplace."

The Mounds, who now run the non-profit organization Casa Shalom. The Institute for Marrano (Ansim) Studies, in Gan Yavne, decided to make aliya in 1984, "but we said we couldn't go to Israel without spending a year on the island studying these people and their customs. That year stretched to three, 1985 to '88. We made a Seder [for the community] and the number of people grew each year."

"The first time there were about nine of us, the second year about 20, and about the same the following year," she recalled. Although there may have been Sedarim held by individual families after they left, Mound said there hadn't been any collective gatherings. When they were asked to come back and prepare one this year, they jumped at the chance, especially since they'd discovered many more families



Seder night in Ibiza: Leslie Mound of Gan Yavne with Marrano island children at Pessah, 1988.

over the years during subsequent trips to the island.

With the aid of the Joint Distribution Committee, which is providing the wine and matza, and the Jewish Agency which is donating the haggadot in Hebrew and Spanish, the Mounds plan to buy fish and fruit and vegetables after they arrive. They expect 30 to 50 people. Mound said there are four families on the island who want to make aliya, including

one from Brazil.

Mound says more local people might join the Seder, "but some of them are not so keen about having a Seder in public. It's a very difficult situation for many of them. For example, in one family, there are two brothers. One of them is re-identifying with his Judaism in a very positive way, plans to convert and is studying in Madrid with hopes of eventually becoming a rabbi. His brother, on the other hand, is a very devout Catholic, and the parents are in the middle."

Mound says the Jews of Ibiza did not convert to Christianity in 1492 like many other Jews in the region. During the Spanish Civil War, however, a law was passed in Spain granting food rations only to those holding baptismal certificates, and many Jews were baptized at that time. However, the local Catholic church on Ibiza sheltered many Jews during the Holocaust.

"Today you have many people who are devout Catholics,

instructed by their priests not to think or do anything about their Jewish past," Mound says. Nonetheless, "if people ask us for siddurim or candlesticks, we try to meet their needs."

Ibiza has a population of some 80,000. About 30,000 come from families who have been on the island for generations - and may have Jewish ancestry. Many observe some aspect of their Jewish heritage. "There's quite a large percentage of residents with Jews on one side or both sides."

The Mounds' work in tracing Marrano communities isn't limited to Ibiza. "We collect information about Marranos from all around the world," says Gloria Mound, recalling visiting two islands, Sao Tome and Principe in the Gulf of Guinea. "In 1493, 2,000 Jewish children were taken to those islands as slaves by the Portuguese. After a year, only 600 remained alive. In 1995, the Israeli ambassador to the region had a conference there to commemorate the children. We have documents showing Jewish practices continued there 200 to 300 years after this forced immigration. People there still have Jewish family names."

The institute has a data base to chart such communities and does genealogy studies. It is in touch with similar groups, such as Kulani, based in Washington, which also studies far-flung Jewish communities. Anyone interested in joining the institute, which gives them access to their data, can do so by contacting the Mounds at POB 66, Gan Yavne, 70800.

Mound says that organizing the Seder and spending time with the participants "gives me a sense of pride in the fact that these Jews continue their traditions. These are people who are trying to maintain something of their past. The hardest thing about this is seeing how it compares to many people in Israel who don't try to keep anything."

Mound says there is "enormous good feeling for Israel" among the community on Ibiza, and that "Jewish consciousness is growing stronger."

Asked whether the Sedarim and their research had not perhaps stirred up identity problems for local residents, Mound said: "All people need to know their heritage - you can't run away from it." Her hope is that the



## Home Front Dishing out the dirt

By Allison Kaplan Sommer

We all have qualities that we're not particularly proud of. And during this time of year, I find one of my personal shortcomings rather embarrassing and downright socially unacceptable.

You see, I'm not a very neat or orderly person. In fact, former college roommates have even called me a slob.

Most of the time, it's no big deal: I really don't subscribe to the "cleanliness equals godliness" equation. But, come Pessah, it seems like every conversation revolves around the massive spring cleaning that everybody's just completed. Talk of turning closets upside down, scrubbing obscure parts of one's household appliances and comparative cleanser shopping leaves me feeling pretty left out, as if I am missing some vital tidiness gene.

Back in the US, no one made a big deal out of spring cleaning. But here, society and the cleanser companies have enshrined as the 11th commandment: "Thou shalt turn thy house inside out before Pessah" - and I'm talking above and beyond merely ridding the house of cracker crumbs.

Hence, the peer pressure ensues. Now, I'm never going to get my house into the condition of that, say, of my mother-in-law. Come Pessah, her house is so sterile you could perform heart surgery in her living room. But I do usually buckle under and attempt to put my apartment into reasonable condition, almost up to the standards that someone naturally neat keeps their home on an average day.

I have housework anywhere, but what makes housecleaning in Israel particularly loathsome in my book is the dreaded "sponja." When I was growing up, keeping a clean house was no picnic, but to keep the mostly carpeted floors clean, all one needed was a good vacuum cleaner. In the kitchen and bathroom, we used an odd device called a "mop" (Israelis look at you as if you are from Mars when you mention such an instrument). With a mop, you swished the spongy end around the linoleum, and, using a handle, without touching the dirty water, you squeezed it dry.

Fifties housewives were able to mop without getting a smudge on their pink gingham apron.

Not here: this is the land of sponja - that long-handled squeegee and that grayish cloth wraps around it which is somehow expected to magically remove the dirt from the floor. I swear that you have to grow up using this thing to be able to squeeze the cloth clean with your hands, rewet it, and wrap it around the squeegee again, without getting soaked yourself. All I know is that the few times I attempted to do a serious sponja, I ended up covered with clammy, filthy water, caked wet dirt in the corners of my living room, and in a really bad mood.

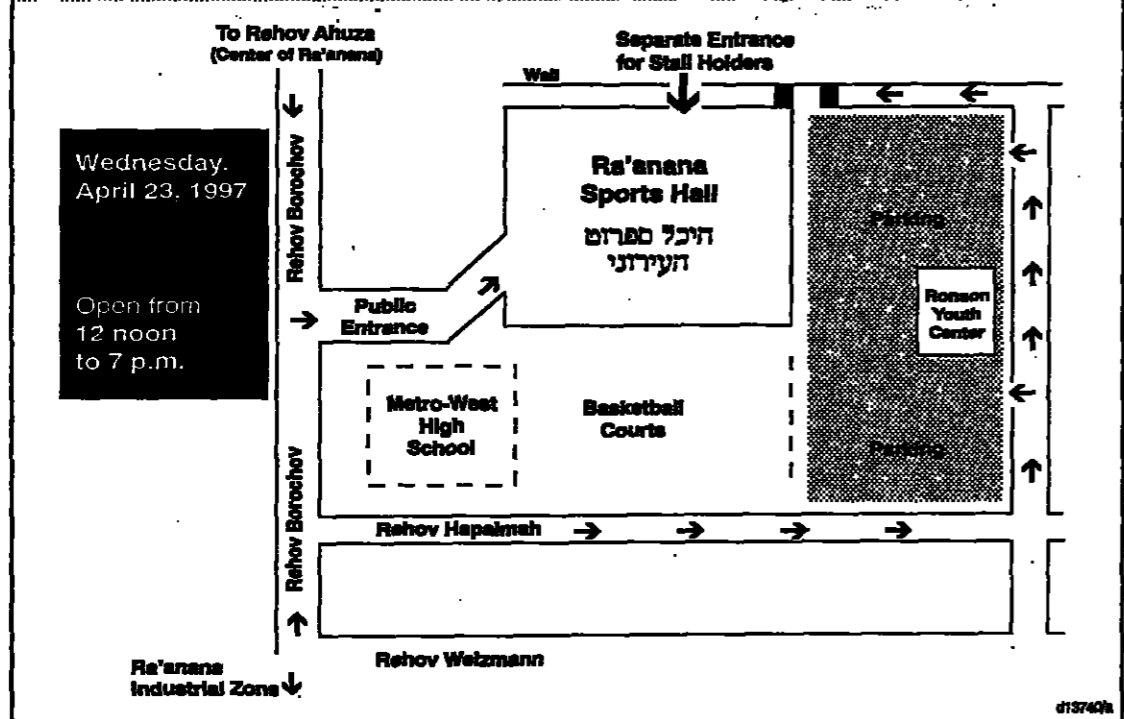
I'm happy that I managed to find a life partner who puts neatness as low on his priority list as I do: I can't imagine ever being married to a real neatnik. The difference between my husband and me is that he harbors no feelings of shame. It's definitely a gender thing. Men are expected to be rather careless and unkempt. A slovenly male is seen as kind of macho and cool. A slovenly woman is just disgusting.

What happens when two such creatures decide to share their lives? Well, it may be the '90s and all, but when a family's apartment is a mess, it's the wife who gets the (pardon the expression) dirty looks. So, in the early days of our relationship, after numerous spats over whose turn it was to clean the bathroom or do the dishes, I often ended up with the short end of the scrub brush. We found out quickly that an automatic dishwasher would be key to our domestic harmony.

As for real cleaning, we have a reliable college student who comes in every week. I watch in awe as she expertly manipulates the sponja in true sabra fashion, making our tile floor shiny and clean enough for our baby son to crawl on without catching rare diseases. Some may view the dishwasher and cleaning woman as extravagances. But in my opinion, such an outlook loses sight of the big picture. For two natural-born slobs like my husband and myself, I figure, in the long run, we're saving a whole lot of money on marriage counseling.

## All Roads Lead to RA'ANANA

### How to get to the fair



## EARTHLY CONCERNS

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

The Galapagos Islands off the coast of South America have long held a special place in the history of conservation. Here, almost 150 years ago, Charles Darwin first outlined his theory of evolution and the differentiation of species. But today, the unique wildlife of the Galapagos is in such grave danger that environmental experts fear it may become totally extinct within the next couple of decades.

The Galapagos are a province of

the country of Ecuador and therein lies the basic problem. Tourism, specifically eco-tourism, is a factor that has boosted the income of the locals to several times higher than that of the average Ecuadorian. Consequently, people from the mainland continue to move to the islands: Nothing prevents them from doing so, since internal migration is allowed by law. More than 10,000 people have moved from the mainland to the islands over the past decade. Most are young and with growing families, and, in total, there has been a 50,000-person increase in

population during this period.

But the Galapagos are small islands, and while there was a definite increase and upgrading in the standard of living for the 5,000 to 7,000 people originally there, largely due to the boons of eco-tourism and work in the nature reserves, there are now more people than the islands can support.

Also, by and large, Ecuadorians do not traditionally have much respect for environmental laws. These laws, for most Ecuadorians, are arbitrary rulings by a government that they traditionally feel want to limit their personal freedom. Nothing could prove this better than the fact that in 1992, after a 10-year ban on fishing for sea cucumbers, in order to protect the dwindling population of this sea creature so desired as a delicacy in the Far East, the Ecuadorian government yielded to the entreaties of the fishermen and issued a permit to fish and sell 500,000 adult sea cucumbers. By the end of one fishing season, the government was

forced to totally ban the fishing and the export of sea cucumbers because a total of about seven million had been caught and sold.

Now, even the 147 species of sea life around the islands are endangered by illicit commercial fishing. The Island Management Committee has one patrol boat to cover the area, but lacks the funds to use the boat for more than one day a week.

Now, as more Ecuadorians pour into the islands, more land is needed for housing, shops and infrastructure. A competition is beginning between land for the wildlife and the needs of those who originally came to exploit the tourist attraction of this wildlife. Yet few settlers are open to discussion of the fact that they are, in essence, "killing the goose that laid the golden egg."

Perhaps the Ecuadorian government started educational programs a few decades too late, or perhaps the Galapagos are also doomed to be a romantic chapter in environmental history.

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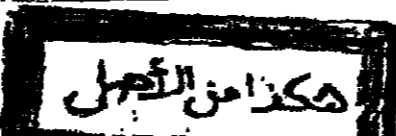
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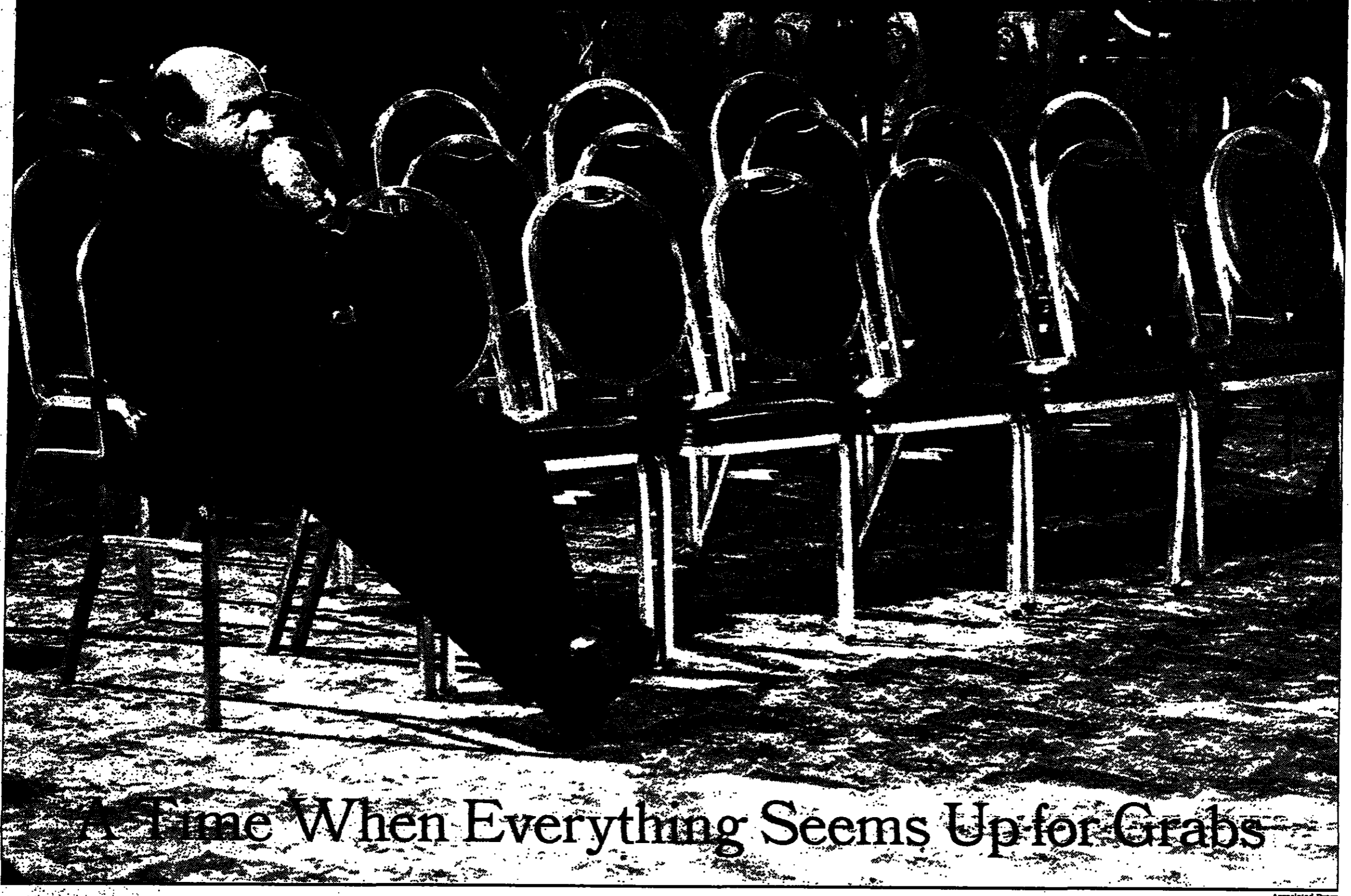
Sunday, April 20, 1997

Vol. CXLVI—No. 50,768  
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# The New York Times Weekly Review

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The Jerusalem Post

## State of Israel



### A Time When Everything Seems Up for Grabs

Natan Sharansky, who yearned for democracy as a Soviet dissident, now ponders Israel's political crisis. In Washington last year, he watched as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke to reporters.

## A Grown-Up Democracy, Including the Sleaze

By SERGE SCHEMANN

**N**ATAN SHARANSKY recalled last week that during the Watergate era, Soviet authorities would hold up the American scandal to Jews seeking emigration as an example of how terrible the West really was. "We said we only dream of coming to a time when we can have our own Watergate," Mr. Sharansky said with a broad grin. "It was Ben-Gurion or someone else who said our dream is to be a normal people, to have our own thieves and our own prostitutes," he continued, now breaking into a laugh. "Well, the dream has come true." It was in fact Chaim Nachman Bialik, the great modern Hebrew poet, who said, "We will be a normal state when we have the first Hebrew prostitute, the first Hebrew thief and the first Hebrew policeman." But

however the quote is misattributed, it is now Mr. Sharansky's way of acknowledging that the Jewish homeland he struggled so hard to reach is in a real political mess. Neither the laughter nor the wisdom, of course, concealed the strain that Mr. Sharansky was feeling because of the political scandal involving the Government of his friend, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Mr. Sharansky had just concluded a crisis meeting with leaders of the Russian emigres' Israel B'Aliya Party, which he leads, and he looked tired. Very tired. The hard fact was that Mr. Sharansky had been thrust suddenly into the position of being the Cabinet member most closely watched for a signal on whether the Netanyahu Government would stand or fall. Part of the reason was the moral authority he had accumulated in his nine years in Soviet prisons and camps; another part was his initial statement, months ago, that if one

Continued on Page 4

## A Quarreling Religion, Within and Without

By JOEL GREENBERG

**B**EHIND the cash registers of Motti Buenos's grocery store, a parchment-like sign mounted high on the wall bestows the Jewish priestly blessing on employees and customers below: "God bless you and keep you." It is not that Mr. Buenos is particularly religious. His lifestyle is that of a secular Jew, one who does not observe most rituals. Still, like many secular Israelis, he expresses an attachment to Jewish faith and tradition in his own way. He eats kosher food, for example, and he celebrates the Sabbath dinner. What Mr. Buenos, 36, feels no attachment to, on the other hand, is Conservative and Reform Judaism, which are seeking official recognition alongside the Orthodox rabbinate in Israel. And his indifference to those branches of Judaism goes a long way to explaining why

their struggle has had little resonance here — far less than it has in America, where Reform and Conservative Judaism are very much in the mainstream. Here, the religion from which even the secular Jews pick and choose is Orthodox Judaism. The modernized practices of Reform and Conservative Jews, Mr. Buenos says, are simply foreign to him. "That's not the religion I know," he said, citing the Orthodox education he received as a child. "It's strange to me that a woman wears a skullcap and is called up to the reading of the Torah. It doesn't seem real, it's not what I was brought up on. After all the years of Jewish exile it seems like a new invention." Mr. Buenos's sentiments seem to be shared by most secular Israelis, who have not flocked to join the small Reform and Conservative movements here. Recently, religious parties in parliament have been trying to guarantee Orthodox rabbis the sole authority to per-

Continued on Page 4

### Beyond Science

## When Death Begins

By GINA KOLATA

**T**HERE was a time when no one worried much about pinpointing the exact moment of death. After all, it was pretty clear, when a dying person took a final breath and lay still. You could put your ear to the chest and discern no heartbeat. Hold a mirror under the nose and see no sign of moist breath. But now, as more and more transplant specialists seek organ donations from people as soon as they die, it has become urgently important to decide just when the moment of death is. Only last week, the Cleveland Clinic, a nationally renowned hospital, was accused of wanting to hurry the deaths of its patients, because it had drafted a policy that would allow doctors to take out organs for transplants only minutes after their patients' hearts had stopped beating, rather than waiting until their brains too had stopped. This practice is becoming more and more common. The problem, however, is that it has turned out to be as impossible to find a definitive scientific answer to the question of when human life ends as it is to find a scientific answer to the question of when human life begins.

### Between Beethoven and Us

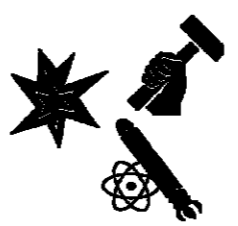
"Beethoven is clearly dead. You and I are alive. But between us and Beethoven, there is no medical or scientific way of saying what is the point in the process by which you are actually dead," Dr. Fost said. Is a person dead when his heart stops beating? That depends, experts say. Do you mean the heart stops and cannot be started again? If so, how long do you wait before you know it cannot be restarted? Doctors tend to wait 2 minutes, 3 minutes, 5 minutes, 10 minutes, but there is no set, standard time to wait after a dying person's heart has stopped, or, to put it in medical jargon, after a person's heart has been "asystolic," before pronouncing the person dead. "The question then becomes, How many minutes of asystole do you need?" said Dr. Baruch Brody, the director of the center for medical

ethics at the Baylor University in Houston. "There is no correct answer," he replied. "It is a policy choice." Of course, the only way to know for sure that the heart has stopped forever is to try restarting it. Drowning victims have gone as long as half an hour without a heartbeat and then been revived. But, Dr. Fost noted, "nobody wants to wait half an hour with a corpse in bed and then try to get a heartbeat back." What about brain death, that moment when there is no electrical activity in the brain? Those bodies whose hearts have stopped, Dr. Fost noted, actually have flickers of electrical activity in their brains that can be seen for hours after the heart stops. That does not mean, of course, that the body can think or feel but it does mean that, by a strict definition of brain death, these corpses, grown cold and stiff, are not dead. The notion of brain death, Dr. Fost said, was concocted about 20 years ago by medical specialists who wanted to increase the supply of organs for transplants. "They said, 'Let's have a statute saying a person is dead when the brain is gone so we can take the heart out and not be accused of killing anybody,'" he said. Now, though, some

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Docs Tout Smokes  
An illustrated  
history of  
cigarette ads.  
By William Grimes

2



Diplomatic Update  
Treading loudly,  
with a small stick.  
By Steven Lee  
Myers

3

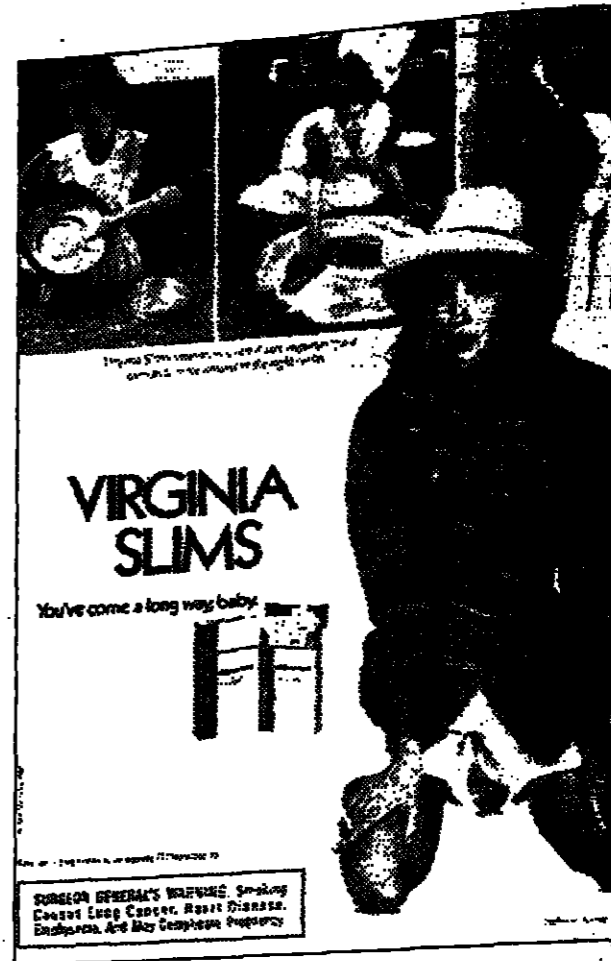
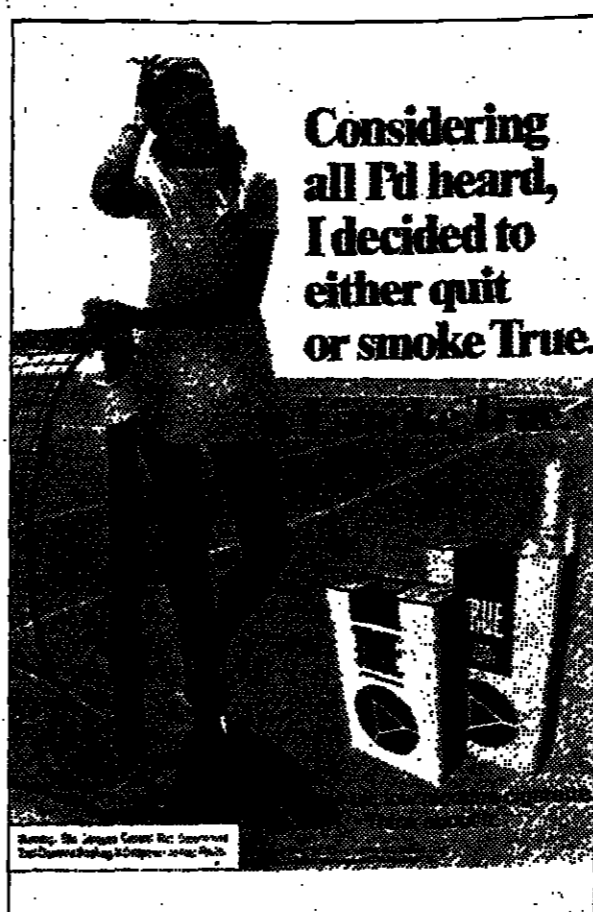
Uneasy Neighbors  
18 years after Camp David,  
hostility toward Israel is still  
rampant in Egypt.

By Douglas Jehl

4



# Ideas & Trends



## The Next to Last Whiff Of Smoke and Mirrors

By WILLIAM GRIMES

Joe Camel, we hardly knew ye.

In an effort to shield themselves against future lawsuits, R.J.R. Nabisco and Philip Morris, the two largest American cigarette makers, have begun negotiations with the Federal Government that could lead to, among other things, tighter Government regulation, the establishment of a superfund to cover the costs of smoking-related illnesses and even more restrictions on cigarette advertising, including a ban on the use of human and cartoon figures as brand symbols.

Prepare to wave farewell to the big brown guy, introduced by Camel cigarettes 10 years ago. As Joe saunters like Duke Wayne into the sunset, perhaps he'll stop to pick up the Marlboro Man, a fellow victim, or the high-energy, fully empowered Virginia Slims model smoking's answer to "The Feminine Mystique."

The glambour era of cigarette advertising, a rich, 60-year period peppered with false claims, phony endorsements and duplicity, may be coming to an end. It began soon after World War I, when American servicemen picked up the cigarette habit. Tobacco executives swung into action, claiming that their wares not only tasted wonderful but that they also soothed jangled nerves, prevented weight gain and aided digestion.

In the 1920's, Lucky Strike introduced the slogan "Reach for a Lucky Instead of a Sweet," using celebrity endorsers like George M. Cohan, Amelia Earhart and Helen Hayes to bring the message home. The fight-fat campaign made a giant stride toward capturing a new market of female smokers, already primed by the daring Chesterfield campaign that showed a male smoker and his sweetheart spooning under — what else? — a June moon. "Blow Some My Way," the caption read.

### Vested Interests

Well into the 1950's, cigarette advertisers continued to proclaim the health benefits of their product. "How are your nerves?" an ad for one brand asked, and proposed a test. Any man who could not unbutton and button a vest in less than 12 seconds probably suffered from frayed nerves and should begin smoking immediately. Camels announced that its special Turkish tobacco stimulated the flow of digestive fluids and raised the level of alkalinity in the stomach. Kools, in the brand's early days, even claimed to offer protection against catching colds.

For anyone with medical doubts, the tobacco industry wheeled out legions of unnamed doctors who were absolutely sold on the merits of cigarette smoking, or at least the virtues of one brand.

"More doctors smoke Camels than any other cigarette," one ad proclaimed in 1946. The Camel doctors seemed to be in conflict with the "20,679 physicians" who found Luckies to be less irritating to the throat than other brands. Apparently, both parties were ignorant of scientific studies showing that the irritant effects of the four leading brands were, on average, four times as high and lasted more than three times as long as Philip Morris, "the throat-tested cigarette."

From the outset, cigarette makers relied on athletes, movie stars and newsmakers to lend luster to their product. Even before World War I, cigarette packs came with cards featuring baseball players and boxers. In the 1950's, Ronald Reagan, as an actor, lent his magic touch to Chesterfields, a brand endorsed by Joe Louis in 1947 as "the champ of cigarettes."

No one expects a cigarette company to portray the typical customer fighting for breath after climbing a flight of stairs, but the cheerful association of cigarettes with youth, energy and athletic excellence has persisted through the decades, mind bogglingly unchanged.

### Not So Alive

The word chutzpah acquired a new meaning when Newport unrolled its "Alive With Pleasure" campaign. One ad showed a group of beautiful young achievers playing a fast-action game of beach volleyball, cigarettes still clenched between their teeth.

As the century turns, though, no athlete or movie star would get within a mile of a Camel advertisement. Now it seems that Joe Camel, boulevardier, bon vivant and role model for American youth, will be looking for a new job. It's tough with that hacking cough and that rather limited résumé. And after smoking two packs a day for the last decade, he won't even be able to sue R.J.R. Nabisco.

## The Black History Exhibit Museums That Tell What to Think

By EDWARD ROTHSTEIN

DETROIT

THERE are some chilling objects on display at the Museum of African-American History in Detroit, which opened in a new \$38.4 million building last week and is now clearly the nation's biggest and most important black history museum. There are rusted shackles used to hold slaves on a plantation in Virginia, a tin case in which a freed black man kept the document proving he was nobody's property, a diagram showing how to tightly pack African slaves on a British ship.

But despite these objects and historical accounts of blood and struggle, the main exhibit, titled "Of The People: The African American Experience," does not offer a typical, museum-style collection of relics for contemplation.

It tries to tell the story of black American slavery and struggle, beginning with a prologue that includes a life-size model of a slave ship on which are inscribed the painfully innocent-sounding names of the scores of ships that carried African slaves: Illustrious, God's Love, Blessed Journey. The conclusion is a hortatory series of photos and panels listing ambitions for the black community, including "expressing our creativity" and "linking the diaspora" on the Internet.

This might seem an odd prescriptive end to a museum exhibit, but it is no accident. The exhibit reflects a new notion of museum design that has gained wide acceptance over the last decade. Today's exhibitions are a marked departure from the detached museum presentations of the last two centuries. The museum has become a forum, not a temple. And messages are to be expected.

### Leading the Witness

An important contributor to the shift in perspective is the designer of the Detroit exhibit, Ralph Appelbaum, whose museum-design firm planned the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, the new Dinosaur Halls at the American Museum of Natural History in New York and the Newseum in Arlington, Va., a museum exploring the freedom of the press, which opened last week. New museums, he has argued, are less important for housing collections than for being "a trigger for moral discourse" and a "service to the community."

But who is to tell the story? There has been no hotter subject in museum design; a few years ago, the Smithsonian Institution even published an anthology of papers on the subject: "Exhibiting Cultures: The Poetics and Politics of Museum Display." The debates may now be arriving at a consensus: each culture should tell its own story, rather than submit to the judgment of outsiders.

### A Question of Voice

The Detroit curators clearly adopted this notion.

"We were very concerned about getting the voice right," Mr. Appelbaum said in an interview. "Language became the biggest challenge." He and his colleagues were "constantly vetting" the "subjective voice" of the exhibit.

The museum's panel of consultants ranged from scholars like Dr. Molefi Kete Asante of Temple University, a prominent academic Afrocentrist, to cultural figures like the playwright Kareem Jones Meadows. The result is a voice that not only tells the story, but determines to whom it is addressed. The explanatory labels typically refer to "our people," "our ancestors," and "our African past."

That first-person voice also has a particu-

lar political perspective. There is, for example, a large panel arguing that the Mercator map projection — the most familiar rectangular display of the globe — minimizes Africa's size and diversity while "the Northern continents and countries are disproportionately enlarged." Other displays use African objects as illustrations of qualities "relevant to our own lives": a mask illustrates Diversity; a knife, Resistance; a statue, Aspiration.

The exhibition says that the struggle for black civil rights was won in courtroom battles by "our lawyers" who "outdid the best minds that white America could offer." The Detroit riots of 1967 are called an "urban revolt" that led to "a new sense of community." There are some extraordinarily powerful and disturbing facts in this exhibition, but the main intention seems to be to create a mythology in which overall effect is more important than individual detail.

Advocates for the new museum ideology might argue that similarly tendentious ideas and inspirational motivations are present in all museum work: the Louvre and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, it is argued, speak to their own elite audiences, legitimizing modern society by showing its origins in classical civilizations. One scholar has suggested that the stuffed animals in the American Mu-



Leading witnesses to history: life-size slave replicas in Detroit.

## When Life Ends

Continued From Page 1

find the concept of brain death too confining.

And the opposite argument can be made: that those who are brain dead are not truly dead. People who are brain dead do, in fact, have some brain functions. Their brains signal their pituitary glands to make hormones that allow their kidneys to make urine. Of course, Dr. Fost said, it doesn't really seem to matter if there is a smidgen of brain activity. "No one thinks that is any moral problem," he said. "The fact that you can concentrate urine is not reason not to take out your kidneys."

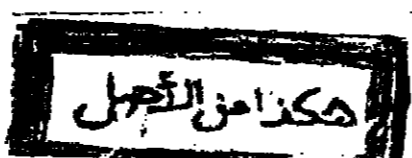
If the idea is to say a person is dead when he is no longer capable of thinking or feeling or perceiving the world, why not broaden the definition a bit, Dr. Fost asked, to include patients who have lost all of their brain but the brain stem, that small section that controls the heart rate, breathing, blood pressure and eye movements? "That's morally and philosophically the same thing" as what we now call brain death, he said, but those patients are not currently defined as dead. "There's no medical reason — it's a matter of convention," Dr. Fost said.

Some people say that defining death should not even be attempted. "Death is never what matters," said Roger Dworkin, a professor at Indiana University School of Law in Bloomington. "What matters is the consequences of death. Can we take the organs? Can we turn off the respirator? Can the spouse remarry? We have very, very different social policies for determining whether we want a spouse to remarry than whether we want to yank out a kidney."

Every state has a definition of death that, Mr. Dworkin said, has no "regard to biology or medicine or anything." After a husband or wife disappears for a period of years, a law allows a person to be declared legally dead so the spouse can remarry.

"What is difficult is in deciding whether it is acceptable to remove organs," Mr. Dworkin said. "How likely is it that this person ever, under any circumstances, would return to a cognizant, sapient state? If you make a mistake, do you make it in the direction of protecting the dying or in the direction of maximizing the availability of organs?" These, he said, "are very serious questions that need to be resolved."

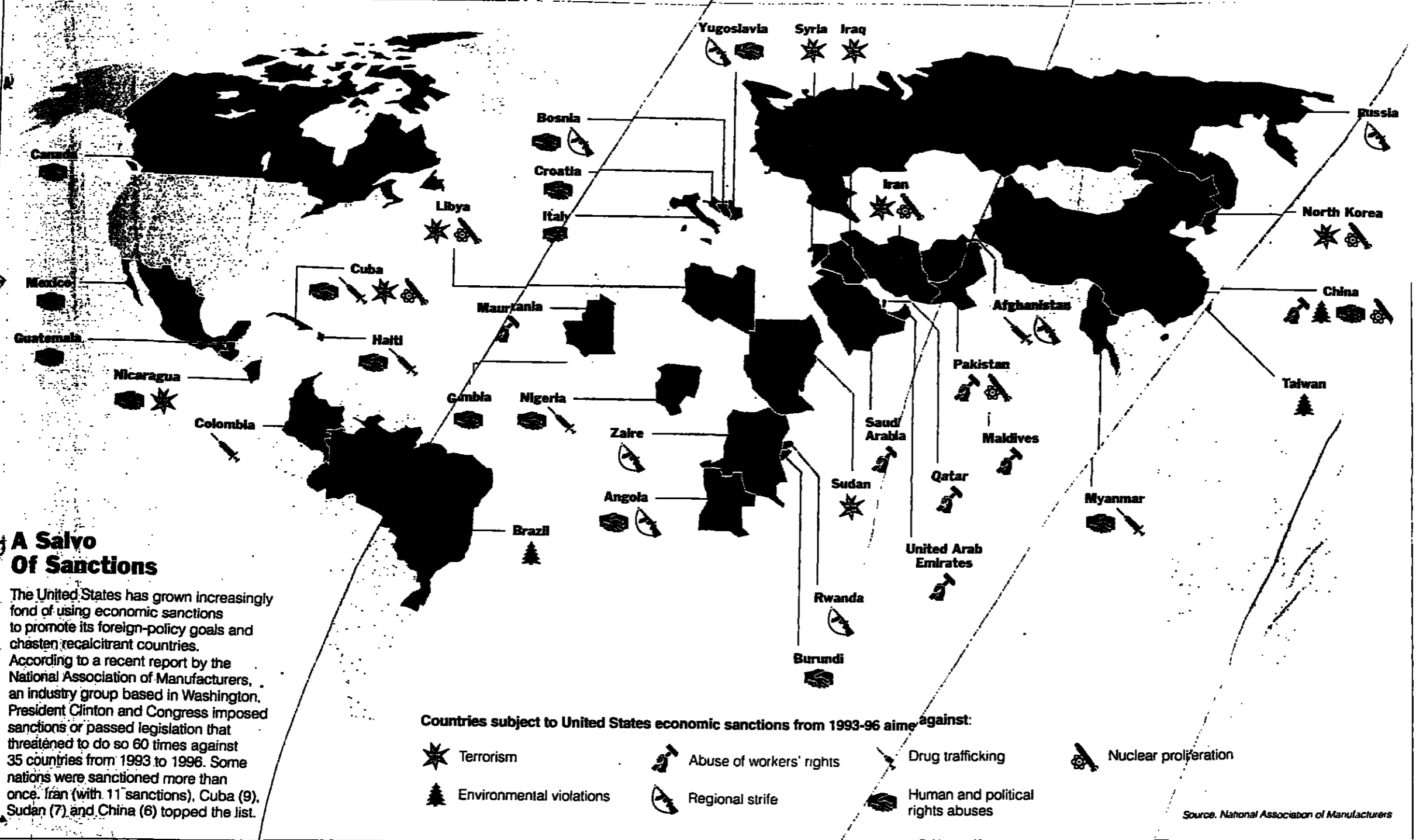
"What's critical, from my point of view, is not to figure out when you want to call someone dead," he said, but to figure out how you want to err.





# The World

## Converting the Dollar into a Bludgeon



### A Salvo Of Sanctions

The United States has grown increasingly fond of using economic sanctions to promote its foreign-policy goals and chasten recalcitrant countries. According to a recent report by the National Association of Manufacturers, an industry group based in Washington, President Clinton and Congress imposed sanctions or passed legislation that threatened to do so 60 times against 35 countries from 1993 to 1996. Some nations were sanctioned more than once. Iran (with 11 sanctions), Cuba (9), Sudan (7) and China (6) topped the list.

By STEVEN LEE MYERS

same number of sanctions imposed in the first four decades after World War II.

In 1996 alone, there were 22 new cases, by the association's count. There were laws threatening sanctions against African nations that do nothing to end the custom of female genital mutilation and against Balkan nations that fail to cooperate with the war crimes tribunal at The Hague — both issues, not coincidentally, that received considerable public attention.

And that's not all. Last year, Congress expanded the longstanding sanctions against Cuba, Libya and Iran. And in the case of Cuba, it even went beyond the American embargo. There were sanctions passed to try to stop foreign companies, including those from Canada, Mexico and some close European allies, from making money off property expropriated from Cuba.

This flurry of sanctions continues despite the complaints of the President's economic advisers and many leaders of business and industry, who insist that most sanctions don't work and hurt the economy.

### Irresistible and Risk-Free

So why are sanctions so popular? Because they are an irresistible, relatively risk-free and inexpensive way of assuaging America's sense of outrage. (Mr. Clinton signed the expanded sanctions against Cuba, known as the Helms Burton Act, amid a public clamor for American action after Cuban fighter jets shot down two unarmed civilian planes last year. And then he delayed them, when things cooled down.)

"There's a slew of people in Congress and in the

Government looking around for ways to make a statement on a variety of subjects," said Barry E. Carter, a law professor at Georgetown University who did the research for the National Association of Manufacturers.

The use of sanctions is not new. The United States has wielded them from the earliest days of the Republic. And its sanctions against North Korea and Cuba have lasted for decades.

There are certainly cases where sanctions have been effective, especially when the United States has joined up with other countries or the United Nations. Two examples are the sanctions against South Africa in the 1980's designed to undercut apartheid, and the sanctions against Iraq, designed to isolate Saddam Hussein after his invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

But the rising tide of sanctions has started to rattle American businesses, whose leaders argue that sanctions — in particular, unilateral ones — do not work and deny American companies access to the world's markets. The National Association of Manufacturers' study was but the first shot in an organized campaign to call attention to the problem. Just last week, a coalition called USA Engage announced on Capitol Hill that it would rally business and agricultural companies against sanctions, which, it said, cost the United States \$15 billion a year in exports.

"If it's a moral message we're sending, it's an expensive and highly ineffective one," said Martino P. Marchich, the director for international investment at the manufacturers' association.

The White House seems to be getting the point. No one in the Administration seriously argues, for example, that the United States should — or could — cut off trade to

China to protest Beijing's repression of human and political rights. And the President's aides headed off unilateral sanctions against Myanmar while still leaving Mr. Clinton the option to impose them.

The President's aides defend their use of sanctions as pragmatic. They say imposing sanctions — or merely the threat of them — is one of the only diplomatic tools that can be used to cajole a country into behaving better. They may be wrong for China, but they can be the right way to fight terrorism in Iran or drugs in Colombia.

### Pragmatism or Hypocrisy

But what is pragmatism to some is hypocrisy to others. The Administration's reluctance to impose some sanctions has sparked criticism that it backs off when big American business is at stake.

In fact, there appears to be a groundswell for still more sanctions. An array of human rights and conservative groups say they will fight to deny China's "most favored nation" trade status when it comes up for review in June. And there are new proposals for sanctions against Indonesia and countries that persecute people for their religious beliefs.

"You don't want to be isolationist, but on the other hand you don't want to make the gross national product the be-all and end-all of American foreign policy and trade relationships," said Gary L. Bauer, the president of the Family Research Council, the conservative group leading the charge for sanctions on China. "There are other American values which are higher."

n Life

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# The World

## Israel: The View Through Arab Eyes

By DOUGLAS JEHL

CAIRO

It has been 18 years since Camp David, and 20 years since President Anwar el-Sadat of Egypt visited Jerusalem. But even in the Egyptian press, Arab political-cartoon images of Israel remain almost as negative as they did decades ago — an amalgam of hook-nosed, big-bearded thugs worse than the Nazis; wild plotters in an international Jewish quest for domination; unclothed, immoral women bent on corrupting the unaware.

Such portrayals have long infuriated Israeli officials and undoubtedly done much to keep Israeli and American hard-liners in business. But the crudeness of the images reflects a hard reality: the average Arab still harbors deep suspicions and prejudice toward Israel and the quest for wider peace.

Hosni Mubarak, who as President of Egypt since 1981 has known only peace with Israel, told an interviewer recently, "Don't ask us to 'educate' our people for peace with Israel — they'll tell us to go to hell!"

### Cartoonist suspended

Some of that sentiment was on display last week in an episode involving an Israeli-American cartoonist, Ranan Lurie. Mr. Lurie, who lives in the United States, had begun to draw a daily cartoon for Egypt's leading newspaper, but became the target of a rival publication and fellow cartoonists who saw his service in the Israeli Army 30 years ago as just cause for his ouster. Bowing to the pressure, the newspaper, Al-Ahram, announced that publication of Mr. Lurie's cartoons would be suspended "until allegations related to his participation in anti-Arab warfare have been verified."

That Al-Ahram proved unwilling to stick by its guns probably had much to do with the current depth of Arab disenchantment toward Israel and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's conservative government. But whether relations have been on the wax or wane, hostility or at least suspicion toward Israel has remained a constant of Arab popular culture. The attitude is seen in books and magazines and on TV, but it is most visible year after year in political cartoons.

There is Israel as snake, poised to gobble up Al-Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem. There is Israel as war criminal, its Star of David transfigured into a swastika, its brutality toward Arabs shown as tantamount to the Holocaust. Even in mainstream newspapers, photos of Israeli soldiers in action against unarmed Palestinians bear such captions as "Israeli wickedness."

When other aspects of Israeli society are depicted at all, they tend to be shown as similarly reprehensible. Rose al-Youssef, one of the most fiercely anti-Israeli, ran a cover story on Israeli tourism last week featuring a scantily clad woman and the headline: "Naked Israelis in Sinai."

In many ways, the portrayals in Egypt, Jordan and areas under Palestinian control remain just as negative as those in Syria and other Arab countries that have never made peace with Israel. Exasperated Jewish or-

ganizations, including the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, began an ad campaign in the United States this spring to urge Egypt, at least, to adopt a tone more fitting of its role as a pioneer of peace.

Mr. Mubarak has produced examples of his own to argue that the Israeli press is often equally unflattering. He has also claimed that even though he is Egypt's leader he cannot exert influence over the Egyptian press. In fact, he can and does; but like Yasir Arafat and King Hussein of Jordan, the two other Arab leaders who have made peace with Israel, Mr. Mubarak knows well the risks of bucking public opinion.

By allowing Arab hostility toward Israel to vent, Mr. Mubarak and his colleagues may believe that they redirect some of the dissent that they themselves might otherwise have to contend with. They may also see advantage in reminding the Israelis that in the spectrum of Arab opinion, they are already of the more progressive bent.

There have been small indications of progress. Only a handful of Arab newspapers still refuse to refer to Israel by name. At least in Egypt and Jordan, news about Israel on state television and in the major newspapers is generally related with an even hand.

But turn to the tabloid press, or even the opinion pages of mainstream newspapers, and the picture grows darker. Among the crude cartoons published last week in Al-Akhbar, one of Egypt's leading dailies, was one with Mr. Netanyahu's name over Mr. Arafat, naming him of the Clinton Administration's chief emissaries and telling the Palestinian leader that each is "a Jew." "You cannot escape from me," Mr. Netanyahu gloats.

Of the three named, only Dennis B. Ross, the Middle East envoy, practices Judaism; the other two, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and Defense Secretary William S. Cohen, had Jewish forebears.

### Not Much Mixing

A similar crassness can be heard in ordinary Egyptian conversation, even among 20 million children and young adults who have been born and raised in Egypt since the peace with Israel was signed.

A greater mixing between societies might help to overcome the most outrageous prejudices on both sides. Only 12,000 Egyptians traveled to Israel last year — about one in 6,000. And while 150,000 Israelis made the reverse journey, most ventured only to resorts on the Red Sea. One reason so few Egyptians make the trip is that nearly all of the country's professional organizations still bar their members from joining in the normalization of ties with Israel, a rule viewed as a caution against even setting foot there.

Not surprisingly, one of those organizations is the journalists' syndicate, whose bylaws reflect the same anti-Israeli line that its members regularly commit to print. In response to recent Israeli complaints, a group of Egyptian cartoonists defiantly organized an exhibition of their work at the edge of Tahrir Square in Cairo.

"They say we are racists," one artist, Raouf Ayad, said of the Israeli critics. "Well, we are, as long as they make no concessions on the peace process."

## Democracy Grown Up

Continued From Page 1

tenth of the allegations turned out to be true, "then this government has no right to exist."

The Israeli Watergate boils down to charges that Mr. Netanyahu appointed a mediocre lawyer named Roni Bar-On as Attorney General in January under pressure — perhaps extortionate — from Aryeh Deri, a key member of the governing coalition who hoped to evade corruption charges. Mr. Bar-On resigned after less than a day. The bombshell last week was a revelation that the police had recommended charges of breach of trust against Mr. Netanyahu.

Now it is up to Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein to determine whether to bring such charges. A ruling could come today.

But whether or not Mr. Netanyahu is charged, the act of "schlepping the attorney general's heavy robe on the slim shoulders of a second-rate lawyer and a card-carrying party hack" — as the columnist Amotz Asa-El put it in the Jerusalem Post — revealed a sleazy side to Israeli politics.

And this places many Israelis in a quandary. Though the Israeli parliament has always been a messy tangle of private interests and passions, politicking has been generally viewed as something of a sideshow to the noble task of safeguarding the survival of the small and vulnerable Jewish state, and for that there have always been the great generals and statesmen — figures like Chaim Herzog, whose death last week drove home the contrast for many Israelis.

### Coming of Age

The Bar-On affair also drives home something different: the coming of age of this land as a small, boisterous democracy with all the warts and sneezes that this can entail.

Sitting in his office in an elegant former hotel, Mr. Sharansky reflected on the distance he had traveled from the moral purity of a K.G.B. isolation cell.

In prison, he said, the choice was always clear: "You can say yes to the K.G.B., or you can say no to the K.G.B. And if you said no, you fulfilled all your obligations in the world, as a Jew, as a human being, as a husband, as a human rights activist."

But as Minister of Trade and Finance, each choice is a compromise. "Each time you have to choose whether you must be a

loyal member of the government, or leave it, or be loyal to your group in the Knesset, or loyal to your voters, and at the same time you have the ideology and beliefs and principles which helped you in prison, and you believed they were the most important thing.

"If, for example, in this situation the case would go so far that I feel I have to leave the Government because of my principles, I assure you there will be tens and tens of thousands of people who voted for me who will say, 'Here you are, all pure and proud, and not defending our principles.'"

Mr. Sharansky said he was always aware through his long years in the Gulag that Israel was not paradise. But descending from the purity of a political prison was inevitably a disappointing process, he said, and it began almost on his arrival.

He recalled that it felt as if the entire nation had turned out to welcome him to Israel. But soon after, he learned that some ultra-religious fanatic had burned down a bus station because of some revealing advertisement; soon after that, an anti-religious zealot had burned down a synagogue in retaliation.

"So I can't say it was the kind of paradise I saw in my dreams. That's why for many years I didn't want to go into politics, even to join a party," he said. But with time he realized that in the real world, if one wanted to change things, to influence history, moral purity was not enough. You had to descend into the pits, and fashion compromises.

"The status quo is compromise, a compromise between different groups and Jews who have to live together, so whatever you do will be a compromise," he said.

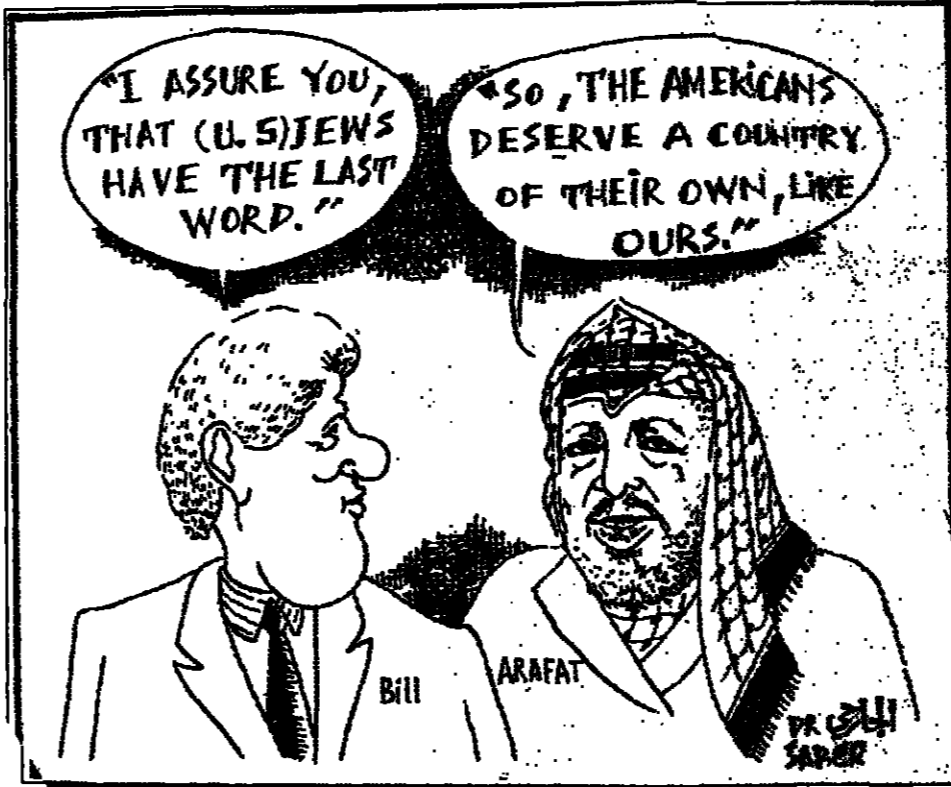
But even in the messy depths of the Bar-On scandal, there was the consolation for Mr. Sharansky and his countrymen that as their state approached its 50th birthday, it was mature and strong enough to cope with all its prostitutes and thieves.

However the scandal plays out, it is not a mortal crisis that threatens the land. The Palestinians will almost certainly return to negotiating the terms of peace; the Americans will continue to support Israel. And Israeli politics will remain messy, because this is still a nation in the making.

There is, as there was in Watergate, a satisfying recognition that the law and the institutions of state are sufficiently entrenched and self-confident to challenge the highest officials. "The drama we are wit-



Negative images: Rose al-Youssef, one of Egypt's most popular magazines, ran a story on Israeli lasciviousness in Sinai.



A cartoon in the English-language Egyptian Gazette.



A 1995 Rose al-Youssef cartoon drew a Nazi parallel.



In Egypt, a Netanyahu caricature cast top American emissaries as Jews.

nessing now is not a certificate of poverty of the Israeli Government, but a certificate of integrity for our democracy," wrote Yosef Lapid in the daily Maariv.

None of that necessarily makes the decision facing Mr. Sharansky any easier. The days of moral comfort are over, for him as for Israel.

## A Religion Divided

Continued From Page 1

form conversions in Israel. Conservative and Reform Jews across the United States are in an uproar over the bill, but barely 200 Israelis showed up for a protest outside the Parliament building.

"It is only an issue here because of relations with Jewish communities around the world," said Bobby Brown, the Prime Minister's Adviser on Diaspora Affairs. "The American Jewish experience and the Israeli Jewish experience are not identical."

The difference between these two experiences is the gulf that separates most Israeli Jews from the non-Orthodox streams of Judaism outside Israel. Seen from Israel, the debate over the conversion law appears to be part of a more profound power struggle over who will set the course of Judaism in Israel — Jews abroad or those here.

### A Provocative Letter

Last week, the Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, wrote a letter to Conservative rabbis and Jewish organizations in which he urged the dismantling of Israel's Chief Rabbinate and a halt to donations to groups that oppose recognition of non-Orthodox movements here. But Israelis tend to see Orthodox power differently — uncomfortable perhaps, but a product of their own political bargaining.

And if the clout of the Orthodox is resented, it is usually not because they are unfair to Conservative and Reform Judaism. The issue instead is how much the state can enforce ritual law. That is why a dispute over the proposed Sabbath closing of a Jerusalem artery that runs through a strictly Orthodox neighborhood has provoked far more controversy here than the conversion bill.

The Conservative and Reform movements argue that religious pluralism is needed if Israel is to be truly democratic. But while many Israelis may resent the power of the Orthodox, they have not turned toward religious pluralism for relief. They seem content that the synagogues they don't attend remain Orthodox.

"The Conservative and Reform movements may work for people who were educated in America, but here it's different," said Renata Nass, a 43-year-old who said she rarely attends a synagogue. "For me a synagogue is the Orthodox one where my grandfather used to take me."

David Clayton, a Conservative rabbi who heads the Israeli office of the American Jewish Congress, says this attitude "is part of the classical Zionist education of 'rejection of the Diaspora,' in which Reform and Conservative Judaism come under the heading of assimilated forms of Jewish survival that are inappropriate to a sovereign Jewish state."

The modernizing movements did not spring from Jews in the Arab world or from pre-war Eastern Europe — the sources of many of Israel's early immigrants. "The Reform and Conservative movements in Israel are a fish out of water," said David Landau, a religious affairs writer for the daily Haaretz. "They grew out of the cultural milieu of the West, which is not where the Israelis' Jewishness was coming from."

Israelis "don't accept arguments by American Jewish activists that religious pluralism is an integral part of democracy, which reflects the reality in America but not the traditional European reality on which the Zionist state was based," he said. "In many countries in Europe you have an established faith and you don't have religious pluralism, and they consider themselves not a whit less democratic than us."

Still, court battles have won the Conservative and Reform movements a measure of recognition and financial support from the state, and as more Israelis learn about them, the movements may grow.

Take, for example, the reaction of Yaacov Levy, an observant Jew who reviews Sabbath services for the militant secular Jerusalem weekly, Kol HaEzer. A recent visit to Haneshtama, a Reform synagogue, was a revelation, he wrote: "I was astonished to discover that the Reform service is prayer, and that their holies are holy."

مكتبات الاصل



ECONOMY

# Hong Kong's Houses Are at the Top of the World

By EDWARD A. GARGAN

**HONG KONG**  
If you like Carrara marble, moon-sized chandeliers, staircases fit for Olivia de Havilland, bathtubs that could float the USS Nimitz, a couple of real tiger-skin rugs and rooms you'd need a six-iron to drive across, there's a house in Hong Kong you would love. Its name? Genesis. And you could have had it last month if you had just written a check for \$70 million.

If that had been a bit of a strain, you might have wanted to take a week at a fixer-upper that is just a quick putt of the Rolls down the road. For only \$48.7 million, you could have picked up a Sino-baroque le-roofed and turreted home with an outdoor kidney-shaped pool, a dining table that seats 19 people, 10 bedrooms and a Hilton's worth of bedrooms. The house, christened by a previous owner, also commands the only 360-degree view of Hong Kong from Victoria Peak. But even in a place where \$10,000-a-month apartments are sometimes garded as bargains, and where people gladly fork over \$17,500 for all boxes of delicate saliva-thread allows' nests used in fancy soups, two houses that sold for a total of \$77 million left jaws hanging. Even more startling, both houses were scooped by a man few had heard

of: Wong Yuk Kwan, managing director of an upstart property company called Pearl Oriental.

"Hong Kong is a very strange city," mused Mr. Wong, a stem of a man who abruptly leans forward when he talks, as if there's no deal he can't make. "Hong Kong property," he said with deadpan understatement, "is completely different from the United States or Europe."

Indeed, nowhere else on earth is housing so expensive. Japan used to be seen as the land of unimaginable prices, but Hong Kong has long since overtaken Tokyo, a city where the property bubble burst in 1990. Town houses in a new development in a lush but hardly haut monde locale, recently went for \$12.3 million each, sans swimming pools.

Perhaps surprisingly, some might say death-defyingly, Hong Kong's galactic housing prices keep expanding like the universe even as the British crown colony prepares to pass into the embrace of the Communist motherland to the north on July 1. Although concerns have grown over the loss of civil liberties that was announced this month by China's appointed ruler for the territory, an acute housing shortage coupled with a rising tide of money from China have pushed prices for luxury housing skyward.

Housing prices in the United States cannot hold a candle to Hong Kong's. There is not a single American house valued at anywhere near \$70 million,

real-estate specialists say. Even Bill Gates's 37,000-square-foot high-tech abode along Lake Washington near the headquarters of his Microsoft Corporation in Redmond, Wash. — which features a 20-car garage, a trampoline room and about 30 wall screens capable of displaying a shifting series of digitized artworks — cost only around \$30 million.

"Seventy million dollars!" gasped Stephen Shapiro, who sells high-priced real estate in Beverly Hills, Calif. "There's never been a house sold at that price in America. The most expensive house that ever sold was Jack Warner's house, which David Geffen bought for \$48 million" in 1990. That Beverly Hills estate, with its hand-carved wood paneling and 50-foot-long bar, sits on nine acres with a pool, a waterfall, fountains, statues, fern gardens and a 10-bedroom servants' home.

It isn't just Hong Kong's wealthiest who must endure stratospheric prices. A recent public opinion poll found that two-thirds of Hong Kong residents regard the expense and difficulty of finding adequate housing as the territory's most pressing issue, of even greater concern than the impending arrival of the People's Liberation Army and battalions of Communist mandarins.

Last January, when one of Hong Kong's big property developers announced that it was putting 1,884 apartments in a new development up for sale, 27,132 people signed up for a chance to obtain a coupon allowing them to buy one. After the lottery, the lines of hopeful buyers stretched around the block from the developer's office while frenzied property speculators scuttled back and forth offering wads of cash for places in line. One offered \$65,000 to the holder of No. 83, or so went the rumors that swept through the throng.

And the apartments were not, by any normal compass, great deals. There were no stunning views, no wraparound balconies, no jumbles of high-ceilinged rooms along long corridors.

Instead, for \$540,000 the buyer would get a tiny apartment generously measured at 796 square feet in a Lego-like tower, one among many



Situated on Victoria Peak is Genesis, a 28,000 square-foot mansion Wong Yuk Kwan bought for \$70 million.

and butlered estates in the English countryside. Genesis sits in its glory. The house that used to adorn the site was bought by Heung Chik-kau (pronounced he-UNG chick cow) in 1967 for about \$200,000. One of Hong Kong's legendary stock traders, Mr. Heung promptly tore it down to build the present-day Carrara bunker encasing 28,000 square feet of home sweet home.

He then gussied the place up with the odd Rodin, a marble-sided indoor pool, marble statues of naked women struggling with grapevines, a pair of tiger-skin rugs (complete with snarling heads) and a galaxy of crystal chandeliers. When he was done, he had spent more than \$15 million — about half of it on constructing the new place, including importing the Italian marble and the Italian workers to install it, and half in an effort to fill it.

"This house is so-o-o-o..." Mr. Wong paused to find *le mot juste*, then added, "big." He continued: "It's too big for living. Mr. Heung moved to Singapore in the late 1980's and only comes here once or twice a month."

Mr. Wong recalled his trophy hunt this way: "I had lunch one day with a friend of Mr. Heung's and I learned that he might have the intention of selling. I immediately went to Singapore the day after. I met Mr. Heung about 6 o'clock in the evening and we made the deal about 9 o'clock, after dinner." He brought about \$2.6 million "as an initial deposit," he said. "I had the check in my pocket."

The final deal, which closed last month, was for \$70 million, and Mr. Wong thinks he got a bargain. "It's the most expensive house in the whole world," he said. Within two days, he said, he received an offer for \$100 million from an investor he declined to identify. Mr. Wong is yet to decide what he'll do with the place, but has no plans to live there.

**B**UT as expensive as Genesis is, it does not command the view that Skyhigh does.

Built by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank as a residence for a former chairman, Skyhigh was peddled off six years ago by the bank's new chairman, John Gray, who viewed it as too extravagant. The buyer, a Japanese retailing tycoon named Kazuo Wada, plunked down \$11 million for the 19,773-square-foot-palace, poured in a few more million dollars to spruce it up and then used it mostly for entertainment. Earlier this year, with his empire of department stores, fast-food outlets and supermarkets reeling under mountains of debt, Mr. Wada decided to sell Skyhigh. Mr. Wong was there to make an offer.

"I looked at it as an investment opportunity," Mr. Wong said. "I felt strong confidence in the high end of the market, and Skyhigh is the best

location in all of Hong Kong."

So, of course, Mr. Wong is going to rip it down. "It could generate a much better return to tear it down and redevelop it," he explained, as two aides trundled a model of the five three-story town houses, complete with swimming pools, that he is going to put on the site.

Although construction has not begun, Mr. Wong says he has already sold all five homes for \$25.7 million each. Four went in a single day and the last one was bought in late

## U.S. prices don't come near Hong Kong's. There is not a single \$70 million house in the U.S.

March. For that, the lucky owner will get roughly 6,000 square feet of living space and a bath mat-sized patch of lawn. Delivery is scheduled for December 1998. If all goes according to plan, Mr. Wong could easily double his investment.

The prices Mr. Wong is asking are three to four times higher than those for similar abodes in the most exclusive sections of Manhattan, according to Anne Snee, director of the town house division of the Corcoran Group, a big real estate firm in New York City. She cited the sale in 1995, for \$7.5 million, of a brownstone home on East 64th Street to the fashion designer Gianni Versace. "It didn't have a pool," she said. "But it had a garage, and in Manhattan that's just as important."

Although Mr. Wong's housing coups have catapulted him from anonymity to inch-high headlines, there is still a bit of mystery about the man and the company he pilots, Pearl Oriental Holdings Ltd., based here in Hong Kong.

Mr. Faulkner of Brooke Hillier speculated that he got much of his financing from associates in mainland China. "But who exactly is backing him he takes great pains to prevent people from finding out," Mr. Faulkner added. "He seems to have links with investment houses in China." Mr. Wong demurred when asked about his mainland backers.

Mr. Wong, 49, is indeed a newcomer to high-stakes real estate in Hong Kong. In 1966, when he was 18 and Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution was beginning to tear China apart, Mr. Wong managed to sneak across the border after a short career feeding pigs and cows while they were

being shipped on trains to market. "I was fired," he remembered of those days. "They told me I had to go back to school to participate in the revolution. I didn't want to participate in the Cultural Revolution, so I got to Hong Kong."

He managed to find a job as an apprentice cook in a small hotel through a friend and he shared a bunk in a worker's hostel with his brother.

"I learned cooking," he recalled. "I worked in one hotel and then another, including the Hilton and the Sheraton." And then, in the way things seem to work in Hong Kong, he used connections to link up with a Chinese company to do a hotel management contract on the mainland.

"I had my own plans to establish my own company for hotel management," he said. "I had management contracts with five small hotels in China, but the management fees were very small. But we built up good relations with China. So I began to focus on Hong Kong."

He quickly showed a flair for making money. Using his life savings of \$100,000 for a down payment on a \$7.1 million hotel, Mr. Wong got an offer of \$8.3 million for the property on the day the deal was closed, he said. After the wheeling-and-dealing was done and the transaction costs were subtracted, he said, he walked away with a profit of \$260,000.

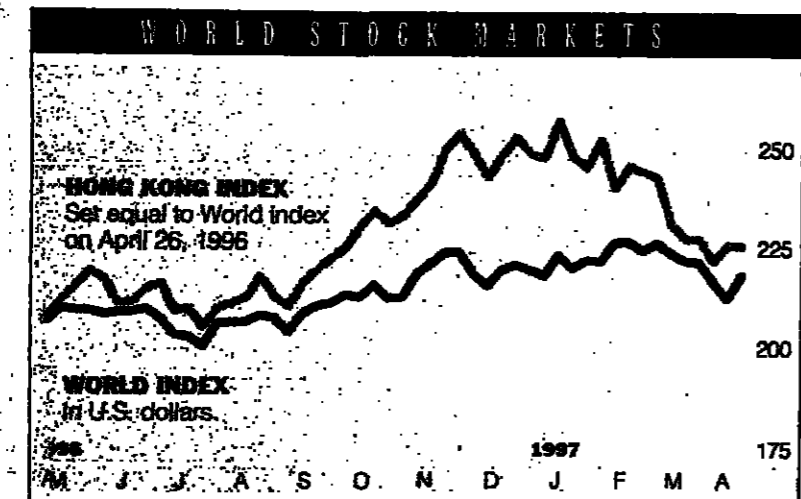
**B**Y repeating this sort of "flip" several times, Mr. Wong said he had accumulated enough capital to expand his real-estate ventures from hotels into small shopping arcades, and then to office buildings, and now, into luxury housing.

In 1994, he listed Pearl on the Hong Kong stock exchange. Though it trades for a measly 38 cents a share, its market capitalization exceeds \$1.8 billion because the company has floated a staggering 4.6 billion shares.

In Mr. Faulkner's view, Mr. Wong's method of operation marks him as a "smallish player" who is probably just investing money for shareholders, rather than a developer with big ambitions for Hong Kong. "I don't think he's into building a market share," he said. "To be honest, you can't take on the big players in this town."

Even so, Mr. Faulkner added, "He's doing the right thing. What he is doing is what someone would do anyway. He's had no trouble finding buyers."

And he doesn't expect to. "After '97 I maintain the market will still boom," Mr. Wong said. "Definitely, there will be more money from China. State-owned enterprises and high-net-worth individuals will want to invest here. There'll always be opportunity here." □



Pred by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poors World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT indices are owned jointly by the Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

PERFORMANCE	IN U.S. DOLLARS				IN LOCAL CURR.				
Country	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Dividend Yield	Index	Week % Chg.	YTD % Chg.
Aus	220.43	1.2	12	-0.7	17	4.01	189.30	1.9	
Aut	180.38	2.7	7	-5.0	21	1.96	160.88	5.8	
Bel	235.51	3.0	5	3.4	7	3.48	205.60	15.3	
Bra	236.61	-1.6	26	24.7	1	1.11	482.40	27.5	
Brit	280.28	1.1	14	-1.0	19	3.85	254.72	3.8	
Cai	183.70	3.1	4	-3.2	20	2.09	186.02	-1.3	
Denk	354.85	0.2	18	0.8	11	1.60	315.62	11.8	
Finl	247.42	-0.1	19	0.7	12	1.70	268.86	13.2	
Frai	212.40	-0.6	24	-0.8	18	2.96	192.57	10.3	
Gery	197.30	0.3	17	3.8	6	1.60	176.03	15.6	
Hong	452.42	-0.1	20	-10.8	25	3.37	450.09	-10.6	
India	227.45	0.9	16	-0.3	15	1.63	336.35	1.7	
Irrel	332.50	1.8	9	1.1	10	3.15	302.56	10.5	
Italy	87.86	1.3	11	5.2	5	2.16	111.22	17.3	
Jap	112.93	3.7	2	-12.5	27	0.87	89.92	-5.0	
Mex	546.04	-3.4	28	-9.5	24	1.21	528.37	-9.9	
Neth	1366.19	1.4	10	12.0	2	1.17	11759.36	12.0	
Nwlad	343.70	2.9	6	2.2	9	2.59	302.65	14.0	
Norl	85.18	1.2	13	-7.2	22	4.34	65.42	-5.1	
Nori	293.98	-0.2	21	-0.5	16	2.16	282.64	10.3	
Phil	178.33	-0.6	23	-11.9	26	0.76	235.67	-11.7	
Sing	382.61	-1.1	25	-8.9	23	1.11	254.04	-6.1	
Sout	355.65	-0.5	22	11.7	3	2.43	346.15	6.3	
Spai	290.22	4.2	1	0.2	13	2.71	241.32	11.4	
Swit	421.43	1.0	15	-0.1	14	2.18	478.68	12.2	
Switrd	280.65	2.4	8	9.3	4	1.39	236.00	18.8	
Thai	82.81	-1.9	27	-13.6	28	3.73	83.79	-12.1	
Unites	310.76	3.7	3	3.0	8	1.95	310.76	3.0	

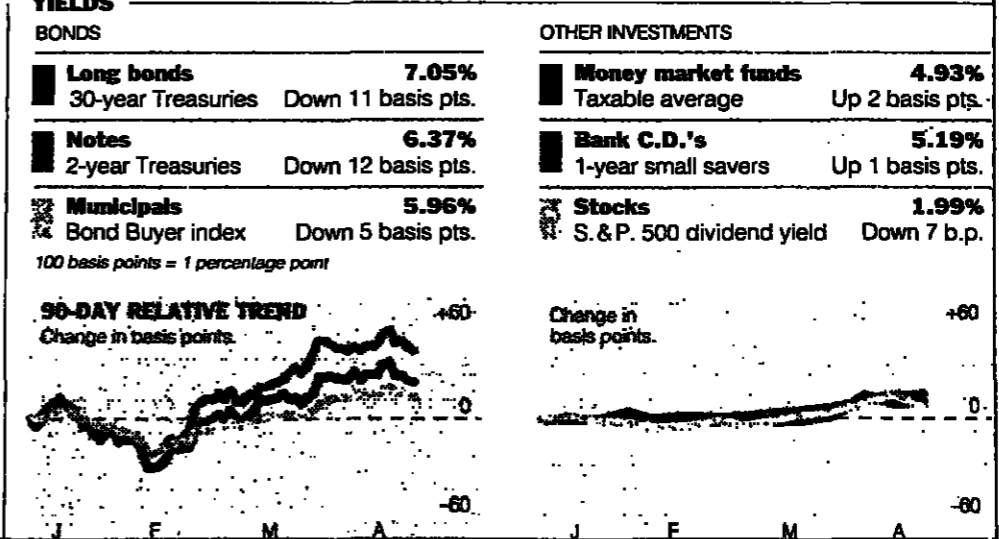
Sources: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1997, Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

EXCHANGE RATES	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japan yen to U.S. dollar	125.85	125.88	-0.02	107.36
Germany to U.S. dollar	1.7102	1.7245	-0.83	1.5135
Canada to U.S. dollar	1.3995	1.3981	+0.10	1.3625
U.S. dollars to British pound	1.6331	1.6277	+0.33	1.5135

Sources: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datastream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs

## Apr 14-18: The Dow Gains 311 Points, but Technology Stocks Stay Weak

DOMESTIC EQUITIES	DOMESTIC BONDS	AROUND THE WORLD
S&P 500 Index	Treasuries	European stocks
Up 3.89%	Ryan Labs. Total Return	Up 1.21%
766.34	Up 0.82%	242.96
1997	Municipals	Asian stocks
Up 4.88%	Bond Buyer index	Up 2.57%
6,703.55	Up 0.66%	131.95
1997	Corporate	Gold
Up 0.74%	Up 0.94%	Down 1.69%
341.74	Merrill Lynch Master index	New York cash price
	Up 0.97%	\$343.40





# The New York Times

Founded in 1851  
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ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER, Publisher 1935-1961  
ORVILLE D. BRIDGES, Publisher 1961-1963  
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## A Schism Among Jews?

Judaism, like any other religion, has a history of passionately argued theological disputes. But the argument between some Orthodox Jewish groups and non-Orthodox Jews over the role of the chief rabbin in Israel and what constitutes Judaism itself is unusually corrosive. It is also dismaying to anyone concerned about Israel and the well-being of the Jewish community. History shows that an absolutist approach by religious groups in a pluralistic country endangers the common bonds holding society together. Israel is the last country in the world that can afford an internal religious schism.

Such a rupture is now threatened because of the drive by some Israeli religious parties to let the chief rabbin of Israel, which is an instrument of Orthodox Jews, retain exclusive control over marriage, divorce and conversions — and to enlist the power of the Government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to protect that authority. A parallel threat arises from a recent declaration by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis in the United States — a relatively small group even among Orthodox Jews — that adherents of Reform or Conservative Judaism may be Jews by birth but that "their religion is not Judaism."

The Orthodox group's statement sent shock waves throughout the Jewish community in the United States, where most Jews are either Conservative or Reform. Now the chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, the academic center of the Conservative movement, has fired back, calling for the "dismantling" of Israel's chief rabbin and suggesting that American Jews stop their donations to groups that oppose the recognition of non-Orthodox Jews in Israel. Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, the chancellor, inflamed passions further by suggesting that the Union of Orthodox Rabbis' intolerance was the kind of philosophy that led a fanatic Jew to murder Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995.

Rabbi Schorsch's comparison was interperate itself. Orthodox Jews ought to be entitled to their opinion about other Jews they regard as straying

from the faith without being accused of fomenting violence. But the chancellor's overall appeal that there be respect for diversity within a religion was a sensitive response to the problem of religious conflict in many societies, not simply Israel. However passionate or even legitimate are the arguments of theologians on one side or another, Israel is a democracy and a dictatorial approach by one group or another is bound to deepen divisions rather than respect for religious teachings.

There has always been a tension in Israel between its role as a modern state with civilian authority and the fact that it is also a Jewish state, created expressly for Jews. Under its current setup, the country is less a theocracy than a civil society with an established religion. The chief rabbin of the Jews has been given the exclusive authority by the state over divorce, marriage, conversions and other matters. Until fairly recently, the chief rabbin was able to impose its doctrines without making non-Orthodox Jews feel that they were being deprived of their rights. But an influx of Jews from Russia, Ethiopia and other countries — many of whom are adopted or related to Jews through a relative other than the mother — has raised the tensions. Since Jewish law defines Jewishness through matrilineal descent, Israel demands that these new arrivals convert to Judaism if they want to marry or divorce. Two years ago, the Supreme Court in Israel said a non-Orthodox conversion would suffice, but now the Government wants a new law saying that only an Orthodox conversion will do.

Theological arguments are best carried out by theologians, but it is common sense for Israel to live up to its tradition as a place for all Jews. Attempts to delegitimize co-religionists because they do not follow the practices of the most Orthodox adherents may make perfect sense to some people theologically. But a single-minded pursuit of such an authoritarian approach is a recipe for division and discord at a time when Israeli unity is needed more than ever.

## The 50-Year War on the Everglades

This would be a very good year for the Federal Government and the State of Florida to begin making amends for one of the most colossal environmental mistakes in American history. The current year marks the 50th anniversary of the Everglades National Park. It is also the 50th anniversary of the massive flood-control project that, in the name of progress, destroyed much of the Everglades and even now threatens the rest.

President Clinton is aware of the opportunity before him. To save what is left of the Everglades before they disappear altogether, his Administration has committed itself, at least on paper, to an ecological restoration project of breathtaking ambition. Its goal is to replicate, as closely as possible, the natural flows of clean water that once nourished the entire South Florida ecosystem.

Scientists estimate that to do the job right will cost \$3 billion to \$5 billion in Federal, state and private funds over the next 10 to 15 years. Success will require sustained leadership from the Administration, generous financial commitments from Congress and the Florida Legislature, and the active cooperation of South Florida's historically intransigent business interests — chiefly real estate developers and the barons of the sugar cane industry.

The primary responsibility for saving the Everglades lies with Washington because Washington created the problem in the first place. In 1947, following back-to-back hurricanes that put much of South Florida under water, Congress handed the Army Corps of Engineers \$200 million and told it to make the area safe for agriculture and people. The Corps thereupon embarked on the most ambitious flood-control project in its history, draining a half-million acres south of Lake Okeechobee with a vast web of levees, canals, pumping stations and reservoirs. By 1947 standards, the project was a huge success. It diverted drinking water to Miami's booming suburbs while keeping them flood-free. It also created some of the nation's best farmland, providing the foundation for the profitable Florida sugar cane industry.

The big losers were the Everglades and, of course, the generations that would be deprived of one of the nation's great natural areas. In the years before the Corps came along, water flowed south down the Kissimmee River to Lake Okeechobee, then spilled over the lake's southern shores and drifted in a broadsheet down an ever-so-subtle grassy slope to Florida Bay. This seasonal flow nourished a wondrous variety of plants and animals in the Everglades and, farther south where the mangrove swamps meet Florida Bay, one of the world's richest and most productive fisheries.

The Corps did not cut off all the water to the Everglades. But there was never quite enough of it, it never arrived at the right time and when it did it was loaded with phosphorous and other damaging runoff from the cane fields. The Everglades' web of life slowly unraveled. By 1990, the number of wood storks and white ibises had dropped by 90 percent, herons and egrets by half. Florida Bay, starved of fresh water, grew increasingly salty, dramatically reducing fish stocks and creating huge swaths of algae blooms.

This destructive process will never be reversed unless something is done to minimize the impact of agriculture, mainly sugar cane. It is a mistake to

blame sugar for everything that is wrong with the Everglades. Relentless development along Florida's east coast has savaged valuable wetlands and sucked up water. In the name of flood control, billions of gallons of fresh water that would otherwise nourish the South Florida ecosystem are foolishly channeled out to sea.

But there are good reasons why Big Sugar is the environmentalists' favorite target. First, the cane fields disrupt the natural southward flow of Okeechobee's water and degrade its quality. Second, Big Sugar is profitable and pampered, enriched not only by a year-round growing season made possible by the Corps of Engineers but by a generous subsidy enjoyed by no other segment of American agriculture. The Government limits foreign imports, creating a domestic sugar price that is often twice the world price. Since 1950, despite a decline in sugar consumption, Florida's cane fields have multiplied 12-fold to about 450,000 acres.

Third — and this is what really drives the friends of the Everglades crazy — the growers are not a grateful bunch. Despite their many privileges, they have until recently resisted nearly every plea for help. In 1994, for example, the Florida Legislature passed a bill underwriting a \$685 million program of construction, land acquisition and water treatment to help the Everglades. The sugar growers agreed to pay for water treatment programs, not quite half the total. But they also made it clear that they had no immediate intention of contributing another cent to a restoration project that could eventually cost \$5 billion.

The industry says it is waiting for more scientific studies before making further commitments. Environmentalists believe that the sugar barons will never pay their fair share unless someone picks their pocket. With that in mind, 500,000 angry Florida citizens signed petitions last year that put a constitutional amendment on the state ballot calling for a penny-a-pound tax on raw sugar production. The goal was to raise a modest \$35 million a year. The industry rose up, waged a massive television campaign and defeated the measure.

The Clinton Administration plans to move ahead, with or without the sugar industry. Financed by \$200 million tucked into last year's farm bill — a sum matched by the State of Florida — several important programs, such as the restoration of the natural flow of the Kissimmee River north of Lake Okeechobee, are already under way. More than \$300 million has been requested in this year's budget for projects like land acquisition to create buffers between populated areas and the Everglades and the rerouting of canals to restore a more natural flow of water into Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. The Administration does not plan to let Big Sugar off the hook. It will try to impose the same penny-a-pound tax on raw sugar that failed in the Florida referendum.

Eventually, the Clinton blueprint calls for total Federal spending for Everglades restoration of at least \$1.5 billion over five-plus years. The final result, of course, is decades away. It will take years to stitch together a wondrous natural treasure that Congress destroyed in a matter of months. But 1997 is critical. What happens in Congress now will set the pattern for years to come.

## White House Isn't Hiding Data in Hubbell Inquiry

To the Editor:

Your two recent editorials ("Welfare for Webster Hubbell," April 3; "Hubbell Trouble," April 13) suggest that the White House has been disingenuous about efforts of certain officials to assist Webster Hubbell, the former Associate Attorney General, in finding employment and about the extent to which President Clinton knew about these efforts.

However, your analysis is flawed by factual errors as well as reliance on specious conclusions based on speculation.

To offer two examples: First, the April 3 editorial states that Thomas F. McLarty, then the President's chief of staff, "led" an effort by "top

officials." Mr. McLarty has flatly denied doing so. The preceding day you reported that Mr. McLarty's efforts on behalf of Mr. Hubbell were done independently, at his own initiative, without anyone's suggestion or direction.

Other individuals who made calls on Mr. Hubbell's behalf, like the current chief of staff, Erskine Bowles, and former Secretary of Commerce Mickey Kantor, also state categorically that their efforts were done independently of Mr. McLarty's or anyone else's direction. You offer no basis for suggesting that Mr. McLarty and these men are being untruthful.

Second, the April 13 editorial sug-

gests that the White House has misled the public by suggesting that the President was kept "in the dark" concerning efforts to help Mr. Hubbell by his friends and colleagues. But no such suggestion has been made by the White House.

As you reported on March 12, the White House stated that at least two individuals likely had told the President they intended to hire Mr. Hubbell. And Mr. McLarty stated, as you report on April 2, that shortly before Mr. Hubbell's resignation from the Department of Justice, in March 1994, Mr. McLarty told the First Lady that he intended to be supportive of Mr. Hubbell. He believes that he told the President the same thing about the same time or on another occasion.

It is true that some individuals who helped find Mr. Hubbell employment during this period, or who knew about the help of others, did not inform the President. You daringly suggest this might have been to insure that the President "could plausibly deny any knowledge."

This is unadulterated, baseless speculation. The simple explanation by these individuals — which happens to be the truth — is they saw no reason to inform the President because they did not think there was anything wrong with helping Mr. Hubbell under these circumstances. They believed him when he said that he faced dire financial consequences that his billing dispute with his former law firm would be resolved, and that he had done nothing wrong. So did the President and the First Lady.

We live in times when too many people are quick to rush to judgment even at the risk of smearing innocent people. But fair-minded people must resist that temptation and remember the important distinction between fact and speculation, such as speculation based on, to use your apt phrase, "a series of coincidences unfairly juxtaposed by suspicious minds." Fundamental fairness, much less lessons of history, requires nothing less.

LANNY J. DAY  
Washington, April 17, 1997  
The writer is a White House special counsel.

## The Ten Commandments, Domesticated

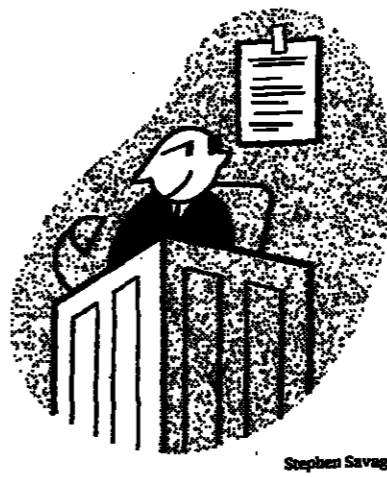
To the Editor:

William Safire's April 16 column, "The Commandment Solution," must be tongue-in-cheek, for he claims it will save Op-Ed space, which would violate the commandments of punditry.

But more important, courthouse use of blank representations of the Ten Commandments tablets, without the biblical text, is style over substance.

Instead of the tablets, post a simple list of rules, perhaps right next to the Heimlich maneuver instructions. Call them "Ten Ways to Stay Out of Court and Other Nasty Places":

1. For mental and physical wellness, set aside time regularly for contemplation of your own life, the lives of those close to you and perhaps ever larger questions if they capture your interest.
2. Take good care of your parents and your children.
3. In all things, choose life and forswear violence.
4. Sex is important and good, but the sex act can have complex and unwanted consequences. Think about it and learn how to control yourself.
5. Be honest.
6. Tell the truth (see 5 above).
7. Envy others for the things they have is not a good idea; admiring good people for the lives they lead and trying to emulate them in



your own way is.

8, 9 and 10. There are other rules, extremely important to many of us, but it is not for the heavy hand of government to impose them upon you or even suggest them. Rather, you must find them yourselves in accordance with the dictates of heart and mind, and the influence of those you love and respect.

Here's a thought: Maybe something like this doesn't have to be limited to courtrooms. We could even teach it in schools.  
WALTER GOLDBERG GRAY  
Mount Kisco, N.Y., April 16, 1997

## Tobacco Settlement Doesn't Solve the Problem

To the Editor:

"Big Tobacco" seems to be an easy target for abuse these days, and your April 17 editorial "Tobacco Gets Smoked" takes satisfaction in seeing it come under the heels of lawyers and the Government.

But far more "judicious" than tobacco executives swearing in Congress that their product is not addictive is the idea of dragging them before a Congressional committee in the first place. What did we expect them to say? And what is the absolute definition of addiction? Plenty of people like me have kicked the habit, and anyone who hasn't been in a cave for the past 40 years knows that nicotine is habit forming and a health hazard.

Furthermore, who is more cynical and sleazy, the peddlers of the addictive drug or the Government that subsidizes them and that will let them continue their business if they make a big protection payoff? If cigarettes are such a threat to public health, why not ban them immediately, like any other dangerous drug?  
DAVID CURTIN  
Platteville, Wis., April 17, 1997

let them continue their business if they make a big protection payoff? If cigarettes are such a threat to public health, why not ban them immediately, like any other dangerous drug?  
DAVID CURTIN  
Platteville, Wis., April 17, 1997

To the Editor:  
Re "2 Top Cigarette Makers Seek Settlement" (front page, April 17): The apparent capitulation of the major tobacco companies in the face of a huge number of lawsuits is a welcome development. It is important that the Food and Drug Administration will now be able to regulate the nicotine and carcinogen content of tobacco and how it is advertised.

However, these apparent benefits should not obscure the fact that the chief executives of these companies are the same people who perjured themselves before Congress when they denied that they had manipulated the nicotine content of cigarettes and directed advertising toward teen-agers. Before making any agreements with the tobacco companies, these officials should be charged with contempt of Congress, fined and required to apologize to the American people for their denial over 35 years that tobacco contains carcinogens and that nicotine is addictive.  
NICHOLAS L. PETRAKIS, M.D.  
San Francisco, April 17, 1997  
The writer is a professor and chairman emeritus of preventive medicine and epidemiology at the University of California, San Francisco.

## Who Is the Servant?

To the Editor:

Re "Medical Use of Marijuana to Stay Illegal in Arizona" (news article, April 17): When a winning ballot initiative is undone by a legislature, democracy in America is down for the final count. (And does anyone need to wonder why Americans fail to vote?) When a vote counts only if the politicians agree, then a new meaning hovers around the notion of "public servants." They're the masters; we're the servants.  
LINDA STEWART  
New York, April 17, 1997

## Rent Control Shouldn't Protect the Wealthy

To the Editor:

Where are the voices of all those who do not share in the benefits of rent control but who actually suffer from it ("Neighbor vs. Neighbor," Op-Ed, April 15)?

For the past seven years my husband and I have been killing ourselves to pay our exorbitant market rent for a small one-bedroom apartment in order to stay in this city and raise our family, but it seems increasingly impossible.

By all means, let's protect the truly deserving — the poor and elderly. But I know too many people who live in rent-controlled apartments who also own country homes. One person (whose apartment we tried to rent, at the legal rate) moved to Florida and now rents out his apartment, illegally, at the market price, subsidizing his new life style.

If rent decontrol would mean a fairer, less insane market, then it is a just cause. If the housing situation does not improve, it will be the new generation of middle-class New Yorkers who will be forced to leave the city we love.  
SUSAN O'CONNOR  
New York, April 16, 1997

## It Keeps Prices Down

To the Editor:

So Louis Winnick's daughter bought a co-op in a building with many rent-controlled apartments and now feels "mugged" ("Neighbor vs. Neighbor," Op-Ed, April 15). She shouldn't. The price for which she purchased her co-op was low precisely because of the rent-controlled apartments in her building.

One can certainly understand her desire to get rid of the protected tenants now that she has profited from their presence. But one cannot see why she should be permitted to do so.  
MOSHE ADLER  
Newark, April 17, 1997

The writer is an associate professor of economics at Rutgers University.

## Politics vs. Women

To the Editor:

Maureen Dowd, in "The Arm Sulk" (column, April 16), has Hollywood Women's Political Committee take the fall for a broad trend: the merger of Hollywood and Washington.

This "year" viewing, the O's evoked a stylistically similar game — the Democratic Convention Who plays politics and who fantasy no longer may be clear.

However, mocking the "sprich women" of the H.W.P.C. for "noisy lectures" to Senator Kennedy and for their over campaign finance avoids a compelling concern surrounding democratic process. The H.W. had an agenda based on a lill conception of human liberty: putting your money behind your particular ideals less respectable than the "messy" work of special interests?

A walk through United States history passes recurrent attempts to marginalize women who organ vocal proponents of morality is not surprising that a caricature should once again undercut a man's call for change from within the social order.  
LISA MER  
New York, April 16/97

## Bosnia Wasn't a 'W'

To the Editor:

In your April 14 front-page piece "Pope in Sarajevo, Calls for Peace," Pope John Paul II expied his sorrow for the people who were killed in the Bosnia "war."

"War," I write, because it was a war; it was a genocide, an innocent, unarmed people of ages and both sexes cannot be a war. The war started later between Muslims and Croats armed themselves to defend their lives and property. But by then hundreds of thousands of Muslims and Roman Catholics had been slaughtered the Serbs in the name of Orthodoxy.

We might be able to forgive the martyrs will never forget the names acts of the Serbs, and the world watched without intering seriously. In history books, the side will be remembered as same on the Western powers and allies.

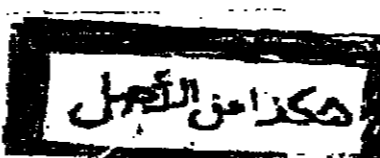
YASINER  
Baltimore, April 1997

## Low Baseball Stand

To the Editor:

I would like to see issue some point in Hank Aaron's wonder Op-Ed article ("When Baseball Falters," April 13). Mr. Aardays baseball was once a standard our country but "is certainly not national standard it one was."

I would submit that it is very palpable standard: standard setting out to make as much money as possible without any regard loyalty to a given community the greater good of society. In fact, such a standard that people, let alone ballplayers, do mention it.  
JROME HESSES  
Millburn, N., April 1997





Journal FRANK RICH

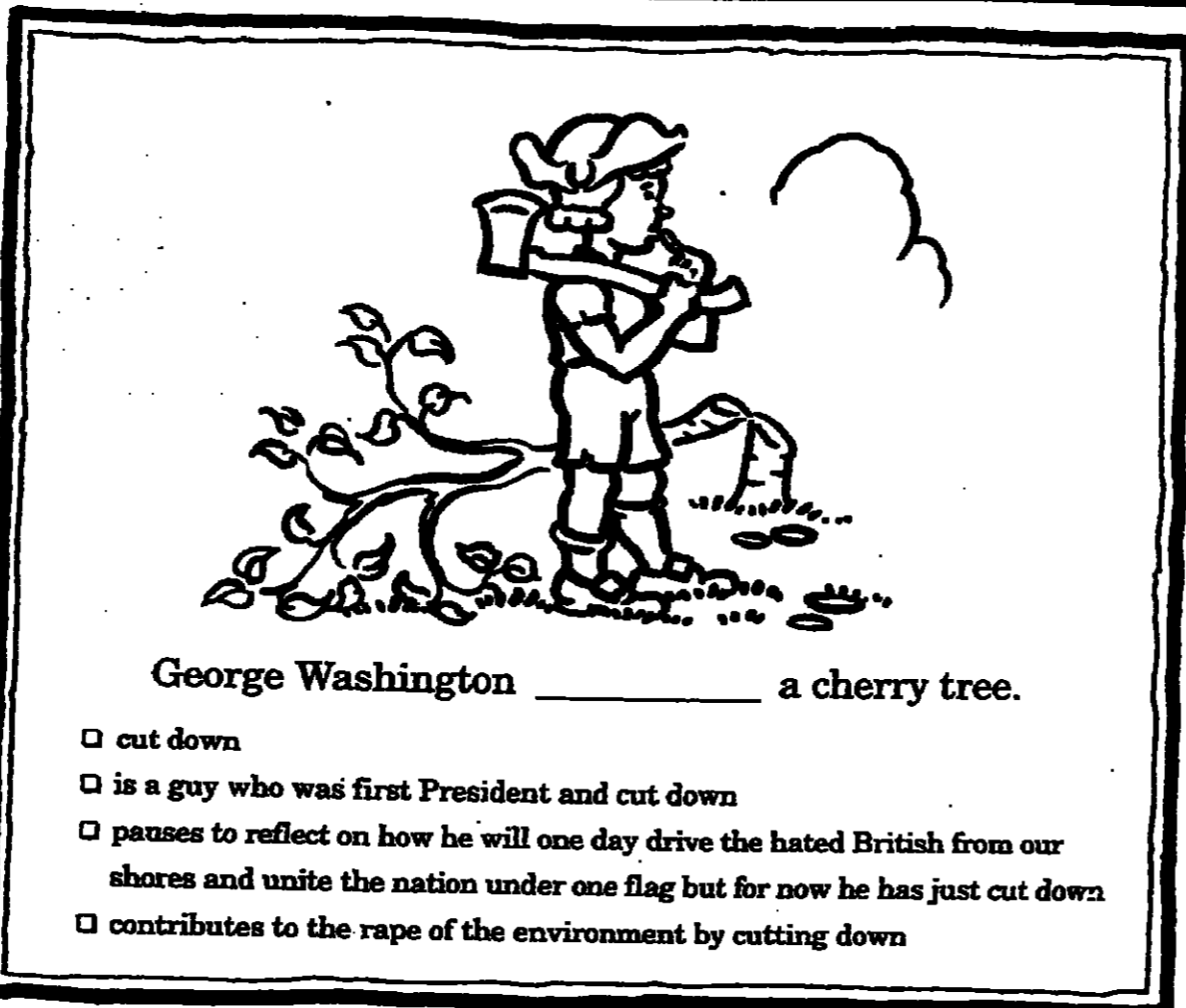
# Times Square's Act Two

At the end of the finest American theater autobiography, "Act One," the playwright Moss Hart celebrates the Broadway opening of his first hit, "Once in a Lifetime," at the Music Box Theater. So many ticket buyers stormed the box office that his brother-jokingly proposed renaming the theater the Money Box.

That was 1890, and though the Music Box is still with us, it is a money box no more. Like half of Broadway's 35 theaters — the half with fewer than 1,200 seats — its future is in serious jeopardy because it cannot pay its way. It is too small to support Broadway's most popular product, big musicals, and yet the huge audience that sustained new American plays in Moss Hart's Broadway era is long gone. The Music Box's current tenant, "Barrymore," opened to good reviews and stars the magnificent Christopher Plummer. But it has played to half-full houses and, at last Sunday's matinee, the only theatergoers under 40 in attendance were the two seventh graders I brought.

Over all, of course, this looks like a boom year for both Times Square and Broadway. The rebirth of 42d Street, led by Disney's gorgeous restoration of the New Amsterdam Theater, is an urban fairy tale come true. More Broadway theaters are booked this month (however temporarily) than have been in years. Even that perennial corpse, the Tony Awards, may be awakened by Rosie O'Donnell. But much like the discrepancy between Atlantic City's glitzy casino oceanfront and the slums just behind it, there are two Broadways: the thriving tourist's Broadway of musical spectacles and the vanished Broadway of new drama represented by the 17 intimate theaters that time and Disneyfication have passed by. If playhouses like the Music Box die, culture won't be the only casualty; Times Square blocks from 44th through 49th Streets will darken even as 42d Street lights up.

What is to be done? Remarkably, there is a serious answer in the wings, and even more remarkably, it comes from the traditionally dysfunctional theater industry. In a report, "New Broadway and the City," an unprecedented move, clipped in to pay an outside management consultant, Bain & Company, to examine the industry's often secret books. The findings — in a confidential report made available to me — confirmed decades of anecdotal evidence. Dismissing the superficially "healthy" glow provided



George Washington \_\_\_\_\_ a cherry tree.

- cut down
- is a guy who was first President and cut down
- pauses to reflect on how he will one day drive the hated British from our shores and unite the nation under one flag but for now he has just cut down
- contributes to the rape of the environment by cutting down

## The Past Is Not a 'Process'

By Sean Wilentz

PRINCETON, N.J. — Just history, he taught as a basic subject in American schools? To an alarming degree, public educators around the country are saying "no."

Instead, they would require students to learn updated versions of the old mishmash known as "social studies," with curriculums that feature little historical content. These educators, including some state superintendents of public education, like to pose as courageous progressives dedicated to liberating schoolchildren from the tyranny of rote instruction and the misbegotten worship of dead heroes. But if they have their way, the widely lamented historical illiteracy of today's students will only worsen in the generations to come.

Although the news media have been slow to report them, heated battles about history and social studies have been raging at the state and local levels over the past few years. These are not to be confused with the highly publicized fights that began in 1994 over the National History Standards.

In that debate historians, teachers and administrators clashed over the types of history that should be taught. Some scholars feared that the main lines of world and American history were being obscured by the standards' emphasis on minority groups and on Western civilization's more ignoble exploits. Defenders of the standards worried that the critics were out to force teachers to impart an expurgated, uniformly rosy picture of the past, especially of the American past.

Fortunately, a revised set of rigorous National History Standards appeared in 1996, winning endorsements even from many harsh critics of the earlier proposal. But national standards are really just suggestions; Washington can't force states to live up to them. So since then the action has shifted to the state level, where boards of regents and education departments are calling for exacting standards in all areas of primary and secondary instruction. And here the terms of debate have shifted as well, from what types of historical subjects should be taught to whether much actual history should be taught at all.

As soon as efforts to establish state history standards with substantial historical content began, proponents of social studies — including the National Council for the Social Studies — took the offensive. Some complained that the proposed reforms are Eurocentric — a curious charge in view of the alleged multicultural biases in the National History Standards, from which many state efforts take inspiration. Others claimed that the various reforms demand too much of students and (more tellingly) of the large numbers of social studies teachers who are inadequately prepared in history.

In some states, notably Wisconsin, proposed tougher standards met with stiff resistance from state education officials, who said that such plans threatened the approved social studies approach and threatened local control of school curriculums. Above all, the supporters of social studies asserted that the reforms would unfairly elevate the discipline of history — what one officer of the National Council for the Social Studies has derided as "pastology" — in a disguised attempt to turn back the clock to an America of white-bread complacency and memorized fact.

Such criticisms might be valid if the study of history were the same today as it was 80 years ago, when the social studies movement got under way. Back then, the teaching of history was indeed a narrow enterprise,

dedicated to drumming names and dates into schoolchildren's heads and limited to the chief political and diplomatic episodes of the past. Progressive-era reformers, including practitioners of the "new" histories of social and economic development, created the field of social studies to embrace broader themes about the present as well as the past, and to encourage students to evaluate trends

Gov. George Allen and the American Federation of Teachers, adopted strenuous learning standards in history, geography and economics from kindergarten through high school, making history the core of the proposed curriculum. An equally impressive curriculum in history and the social sciences has been proposed for Massachusetts, and similar reforms are pending in California, Connecticut, New Jersey and other states.

Still, approval of those standards is far from certain. Predictably, the social studies lobby has impugned the reformers' political motives, attacking the curriculums as tools for reactionary fact-grubbers and mindless patriots.

The real issue, however, is not one of right and left. It is whether history ought to be a key element of American schooling. However noble its origins, social studies has outlived its usefulness — with the sad result that a majority of today's American high school students are ignorant of the most basic information about the past.

### Will history beat back the social studies lobby?

as well as to memorize facts. Since then, however, the field of history has changed remarkably. Formerly neglected aspects of the past, including the history of women and of minority groups, now occupy a central place in historical research and teaching. Emphasis now falls not simply on the recitation of facts but also on the interpretation of facts and primary documents.

Social studies, meanwhile, has mutated into a catchall field, blending bits and pieces of the different social sciences, with an emphasis on "process" and practical skills rather than on knowledge. Or, in the words of one of its advocates, James L. Barth of Purdue University, "social studies is the interdisciplinary integration of social science and humanities concepts for the purpose of practicing problem solving and decision making for developing citizenship skills on critical social issues."

Beneath such boilerplate lurks a fundamental disregard for history and its contents. To be sure, social studies programs may instruct students in historical events, like the Protestant Reformation or the American Revolution, but those events assume importance only to the extent that they have relevance to our own world. The pastness of the past is lost — and with it the humanizing lesson that people in history, although every bit as intelligent as ourselves, thought and lived in ways very different from our own.

Areas of history that cannot be easily connected to current priorities inevitably get neglected. Diverse ideas and cultures are reduced to one-dimensional subjects or "factors," divorced from their sources and their historical lineage. And the teaching of crucial facts, such as when the Civil War began, is demoted in favor of teaching abstract concepts. Thus students may learn nothing about the Presidency of Abraham Lincoln except as it pertains to the persistence of American racism.

Today's history-minded reformers, led by the National Council for History Education, do not deny the importance of teaching students how to evaluate issues that confront us today. But this goal is best reached by teaching the discipline of history, not by relentlessly turning the past into a mere prologue of the present.

Interdisciplinary efforts have merit, but only after students have mastered the various disciplines in question. That means instructing students in world and American history as well as geography and government (or civics). To combine that instruction from the start with a hodgepodge of anthropology, sociology, psychology and economics — that is, to sustain social studies as we know it — is to deprive students of the building blocks they need in order eventually to study those fields. It is also to hull students and parents into the belief that the schools are teaching advanced social sciences effectively.

Recently, advocates of more demanding history standards have gained ground. In 1995, Virginia's Board of Education, supported by

Sean Wilentz, a professor of history at Princeton University, is co-author of "The Kingdom of Matthias: A Story of Sex and Salvation in 19th-Century America."

Essay WILLIAM SAFIRE

## Tough at the Top

WASHINGTON — "We have not journeyed all this way," said Winston Churchill, "... because we are made of sugar candy."

Britain's wartime leader was speaking of his imperiled nation, but the thought applies today to political leaders in Jerusalem and Washington who are fighting accusations of wrongdoing.

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu adamantly rejects charges by a disgruntled office-seeker of making a deal to appoint a supposedly malleable Attorney General.

If formally accused today, the Israeli leader could suspend himself for 100 days and fight for exoneration at trial. If not indicted, the besmeared Prime Minister would depend on Natan Sharansky's immigrant party to remain aligned with Likud, thereby blocking Labor's lust for an election return.

Bibi is no pushover. He believes himself the target of a police-media cabal and asserts "the truth will triumph." In Israel's open society, it will. In our House of Representatives, Speaker Newt Gingrich is no pushover, either. (As one of the pushers, I'll certify to that.) He stepped up to the punishment problem, treating the \$300,000 as a fine to be paid by him for ethical lapses and not mere reimbursement to the House from others for its trouble.

The financing of his fine — an interest-deferred loan from Bob Dole — cuts a corner, but the penalty ultimately comes out of Gingrich's hide. He remains in I.R.S. sights; the Speaker's ship may change hands before the next election; yet there stands Newt, in the red but still in office.

When it comes to sustained unpunishability, Bill Clinton has no equal. His core belief — the quintessence of his philosophy — is to cling to the Presidency as long as the law allows.

His Attorney General finds "no credible evidence" of high-level law-breaking requiring independent counsel. Her rejection to Congress says campaign violations "have been under active investigation since November."

But that's just it. Facts pointing to corrupt Asian influence — including meetings among John Huang, Webster Hubbell and James Riady — appeared in this space Oct. 7; more facts were revealed in The Wall Street Journal the next day, and in The New York Times and Los Angeles Times the next week.

By Janet Reno's own admission, for

one solid month her leaderless Criminal Division looked the other way, allowed suspects to flee the country, subpoenaed documents to be destroyed, perpetrators to collude on testimony, until the money-corrupted election was safely over. Now Justice can't find a thing. The disincentive to discovery: if it found credible evidence, Justice would lose control of the case.

"Gerthaton" — my Times colleague Jeff Gerth and Steve Labaton — put together a damning time line. June 21 to June 25, 1994, Indonesian banker James Riady visits the White House five times; on June 23, he meets twice with the disgraced and out-of-work Hubbell. On June 27, a Riady company pays Hubbell \$100,000. The following weekend, Clinton brings Hubbell to Camp David.

Asked Friday if he discussed this Indonesian assistance on that Fourth of July weekend with Hubbell, Clinton says, "I don't remember anything about that." And Hushaby Hubbell would have us believe he never thanked his best friend and benefactor. That's their story and they're sticking to it.

Here's an experiment. Repeated squeezings of the press secretary reveal that the other member of the golfing threesome at Camp David that weekend was Interior's Robert Armstrong, a Clinton crony. Do you suppose, in the past six months, the neo-evil crowd at Justice has taken testimony from him about conversation on the links?

I doubt it. That means it falls to Dan Burton in the House and Fred Thompson in the Senate to turn up the evidence to force appointment of independent counsel.

We cannot equate a fuzzy charge of "breach of trust" against Netanyahu with the ethical charges against Gingrich or the accumulated array of potential charges against Clinton.

But Israel and the U.S. share the public courage to call leaders to account. And we may grudgingly grant that our embattled leader-targets have this in common: They're not made of sugar candy.

### Leaders not made of sugar candy.

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### Broadway plots a dramatic comeback.

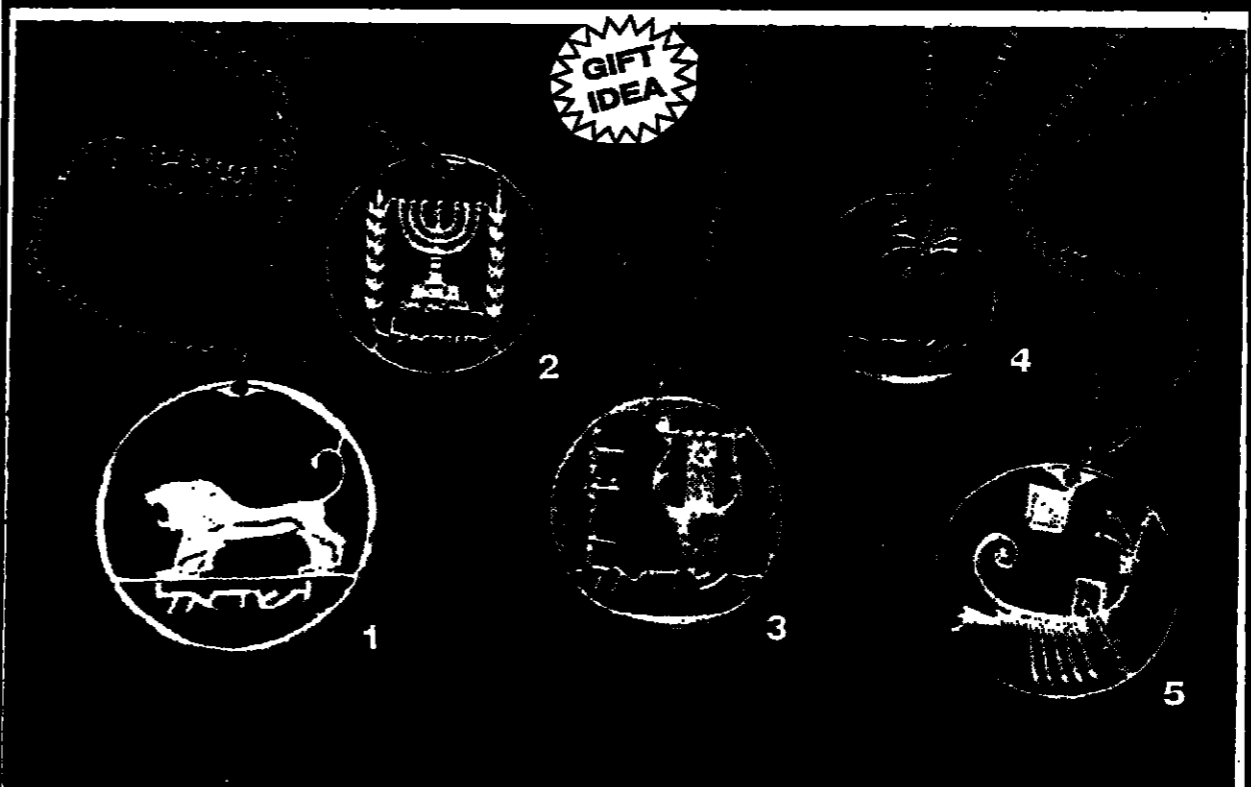
by long-running musicals, Bain revealed a Broadway akin to the pre-turnaround Chrysler. In the past 35 years, its audience size has been flat and production of new plays has fallen by 65 percent; its market share has dwindled next to that of every competing New York entertainment industry. As my "Barrymore" audience testified, a full generation of theatergoers has been lost.

If this slide continues, the 17 endangered theaters will end up (like many on 42d Street) being converted to non-theatrical uses. But a second, not-yet-released document points another way. Their minds focused at long last by the Bain report, a group of frequent antagonists — theater owners, union leaders, Broadway and Off Broadway producers, theater artists, city officials and business leaders — sat down and in 18 months of incrementally harmonious haggling crafted a so-called Broadway Initiative. The Initiative is a nonprofit corporation, a public-private partnership, with a realistic scheme for furthering the production of new plays and small musicals in dark Broadway houses through ingeniously targeted grants and low-cost loans. It will also invest heavily in luring back the young.

To do so will take \$10 million a year, with management, labor and the public all splitting the bill. The potentially deal-breaking negotiations to divvy up that cost will not begin in earnest until the plan is officially announced next month. But everyone at the table has agreed in principle to ante up, according to Jack Goldstein, the Actors' Equity official who has driven the process.

As a masochistic lifelong observer of Broadway's self-destructive decline, I don't know which is more amazing — that the New York theater's back-stabbing factions sat down together, or that they've agreed on a scheme that is not another public-relations smokescreen but a real plan requiring their own self-sacrifice for the greater good of Broadway and the city. When I took my son and his friend to the Music Box, I thought I was showing them a New York experience, bound to be extinct by their adulthood, but now, most amazingly, I'm not so sure.

## Historical Creations



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THE ARTS

# Motherly? Not Her! Nature is Trying to Kill You.

By ANDREW C. REVKIN

**I**N THE HEART OF LOS ANGELES, the gooey but benign La Brea tar pits suddenly belch rivers of glowing lava. Soon, as ads for the movie "Volcano" warn, "The Coast Is Toast."

Deep in the Amazon, an impossibly large anaconda chases a hunter up the mast of a boat. The man shoots himself rather than suffer death by slow constriction.

In Oklahoma, meteorologists stalk a three-headed tornado, hoping to fill it with beeping sensors. But the roaring beast turns on its pursuers like an enraged rhino.

Movie villains, no matter how evil, used to be played almost exclusively by people. Only rarely did a King Kong appear, and even then the monster ape was more tragic hero than bad guy. If a natural force played a role, it was most often a supporting one, like the hurricane in "Key Largo" that served mainly to intensify the emotions and reactions of the trapped gangsters and innocents. Or, humanity was at fault. Radioactive tests spawned giant ants. In "Crack in the World," a pulpy 1965 science fiction picture, an underground nuclear explosion began to split the planet.

But now, in one big-budget film after another, the evil that men do has given way to Mother Nature un-

many of these films. Saul Zaentz, the veteran producer of literary movies, the latest of which, "The English Patient," just won him his third Academy Award for best picture, said the new disaster films seek to grab the audience, but not by the brain. Special effects overwhelm the story—if there is one, he said; titles like "Twister," "Anaconda" and "Volcano" mirror the films' single-mindedness.

"You sit there and watch and everything goes by you," Mr. Zaentz said. "You don't have to participate. You don't have to think. You can be scared, but you're not thinking."

Mr. Zaentz added that he has nothing against special effects. In "The English Patient," he used a computer to multiply 4 paratroopers into 80. But his own Amazon project, "At Play in the Fields of the Lord," contained no animatronic snakes.

Film makers working on nature-as-villain movies, however, say there is nothing wrong with the trend, as long as everyone enjoys the ride. Mr. Jackson, whose \$100 million "Volcano" is scheduled to open on Friday, said he had always wanted to wreak a little havoc, and people enjoy watching—from a distance.

"When I was a kid, in our garden sometimes we had plagues of ants," said Mr. Jackson, whose credits range from BBC documentaries to "The Bodyguard," which starred Whitney Houston. "My mother showed me how to heat up a kettle of water and pour it into the ant hill. In 'Volcano,' I get to do the same thing to L.A."

"It's really just another kind of ant hill. The ants initially start scurrying around, many are killed, but they eventually regroup and rebuild."

Fire and flood figure prominently in disaster films in the works. "Tsunami" tracks frantic efforts to protect San Francisco from a giant wave racing across the Pacific. "Armageddon," "Galileo's Wake" and "Deep Impact," in various stages of development, are all about comets or asteroids colliding with Earth.

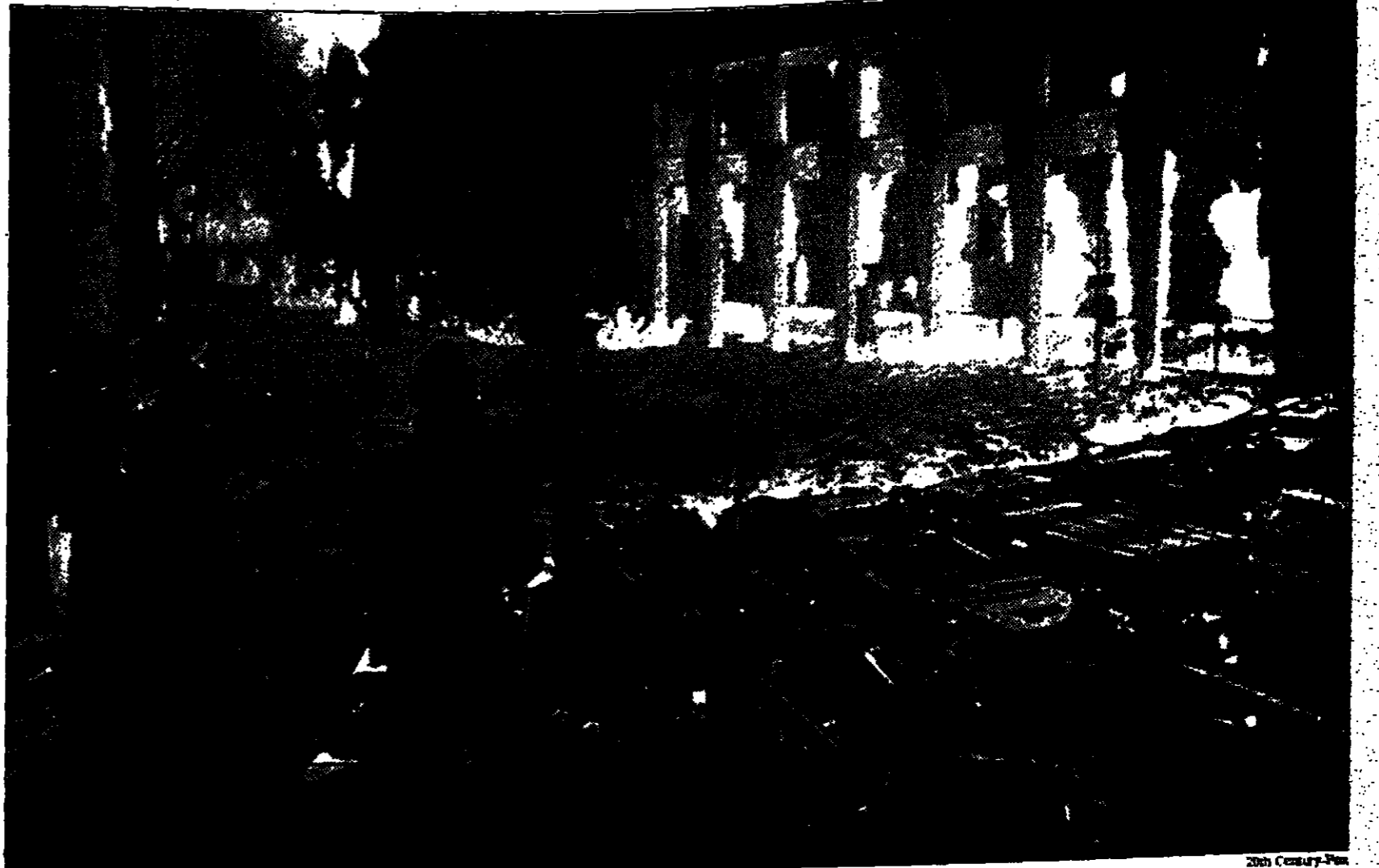
The real driving force behind these projects, however, is economics: the need of studios to produce at least one big film a year that can create streams of income from overseas (what is more universal than the fear of natural disaster?), from video rentals and from cable television.

Some films are even tied into theme-park rides. One planetary-collision movie was so linked to a planned amusement park ride that script changes were ordered to accommodate changes in the ride, according to two people involved in that project, who spoke only on condition that they and the movie not be identified. That film has not been shot.

There also remains a fundamental macho competitiveness among the studios, which frequently try to derail or outdo rival projects by pumping money into their own variants. This year, "Volcano" and "Dante's Peak" survived a head-to-head battle of the volcanoes that ran up costs to more than \$100 million apiece.

The asteroid pictures are not faring as well. With the competition putting most in what the industry calls "development hell," the only cosmic collision movie close to being filmed is "Deep Impact," inspired by Arthur C. Clarke's novel "The Hammer of God" and the 1951 science-fiction classic "When Worlds Collide." The executive producer is Steven Spielberg.

Directors and producers say the cost of today's special effects has sharply raised the stakes of studio



In "Twister," from 1996, and "Volcano," above, moviegoers are buffeted by all manner of destructive natural phenomena.

## The latest movie villains are brute forces of nature, in all their computer-enhanced fury.

glued. Moviegoers are being buffeted by all manner of geological, biological and climatological phenomena, souped up beyond all imagining by computerized special effects.

Perhaps natural-disaster films reflect a growing sense in society that humans, whose technology makes them feel so in control, so safe, are attracted to stories where things are totally out of control. Perhaps the end of the Cold War, the drop in the crime rate and other social trends have put old villains out of work.

Or it may simply be special-effects envy, as studios vie to create the latest greatest illusion in the race for box-office gold. With gigabytes of computer power at their beck and call, the effects specialists of the 90's have little to hold them back, so that even humans with the muscles and weaponry of an Arnold Schwarzenegger character can't compete with giant asteroids and tidal waves for eye-popping impact. "Twister," the movie credited with kicking off the trend last summer, has taken in almost \$500 million worldwide.

And so for now, at least, Mother Nature has become Hollywood's biggest, and most expensive star: the computer effects for a tricky lava scene cost as much as \$10,000 a second, according to Mick Jackson, the director of "Volcano," the next—but not last—in a cluster of what could be called "geo-pics." At \$20 million a picture, a mere mortal like Jim Carrey earns only around \$3,000 a screen second.

Some of Hollywood's old guard wink at the lack of story-telling in

rivalries that have always existed. "Twenty-five or 30 years ago, I remember hearing a conversation between a couple of executives about some upcoming pictures," Mr. Zaentz said. "One guy said, 'They've got bees, but we've got rats.' Now rats have become giant volcanoes."

Directors, however, say there are good reasons why disaster films are popular, from the high-minded to the low-brow.

On a Freudian level, Mr. Jackson suggested, "disaster movies answer a need."

"The more anxious we get, the more we need fables and fairy stories in which the worst possible things happen," he added. "We watch it happen, watch people acting

all those movies of the 50's, 60's and 70's and take out the cardboard nature and put in something totally convincing."

His technical crews, for example, worked for weeks to mesh scenes in which actors' faces are lit by the glow of approaching lava with scenes in which "mini lava" flows through a small-scale set.

In the end, though, it is audiences' appetite for the stimulation of ever-bigger natural disasters that appears to be insatiable.

**T**HE AUDIENCE INCREASES its expectations movie by movie," Mr. Jackson said. "They've gotten tired of human villains, who are still subject to human limitations. With a force of nature and a

computer, you can be as evil as you like. Someone gives them a twister and they love it. So someone says, how about a volcano?"

Or a giant anaconda. It would be hard to find a biological villain that could outdo the 40-foot animated snake that stars in the eponymous Columbia Pictures film, which brought in \$16 million in its first weekend.

Some groups dedicated to defending nature are enjoying these films. In a way, they help put people in their place, said Andy Goodman, president of the Environmental Media Association, a private group in Los Angeles whose mission is to infuse environmental themes and practices into the entertainment industry.

"Twister," Mr. Goodman said, "demonstrates the awesome force of nature and how puny we are in com-

parison. That's not such a bad thing."

He even sees last summer's greatest box-office hit, "Independence Day," as fitting that mold. "My personal theory is that 'Independence Day' was a very subtle environmental tract," he said. "We as a people are sucking this Earth dry. We know that, particularly here in America. But we can't hate ourselves."

"So what do we do? We create an extraterrestrial foe that is sucking planets dry and moving on. We project our deepest darkest fears about ourselves on something else we can really hate and destroy."

Mr. Goodman added a last thought: "Who defeats them? Jeff Goldblum, the environmentalist in the movie. They should've called it Earth Day."

**'You can be scared, but you're not thinking,' says Saul Zantz, producer of literary films.**

out our worst nightmares." Somehow, though, humanity finds a way to emerge from the ashes—literally in the case of "Volcano." A key to that movie, Mr. Jackson said, is its emphasis on racial divisions in Los Angeles, which are eliminated at the end, when everyone is covered in a monochrome layer of gray ash.

But the escalating capability of technology is also encouraging the production of these films. Ideas can be filmed that could not even be imagined several years ago.

"Now we can do almost anything," Mr. Jackson said. "We can go back to



In 1965's "Crack in the World," it was humanity that caused nature to erupt. Now she rebels on her own.

## BAR NONE

BY CHARLES M. DEBER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

- 111 Tell
113 French sculptor's weather-front detectors?
116 It's a fault's fault
117 High water alternative
118 Average fellow?
119 Day to remember
120 "Fables"
121 Drifting
122 Ogle
123 Acclivity
DOWN
1 Palpebral swelling
2 How the Amazon flows
3 Effect in the recording studio
4 Cheery of Edwin Arlington Robinson verse
5 Old rural sights
6 Tangoing number
7 Prepare to drag
8 Rubber stamp
9 Played fast and loose with the facts
10 As soon as
11 Boners
12 Braid, to Brigitte
13 Simpson attorney?
14 Nickname for a big dog
15 Canal site
16 Quotation compiler's singer?
17 Feeling
18 Benzocaine, for one
24 This guy's a doll
25 "How Can We Be Lovers" singer
29 Favorite game of President Clinton
32 Nugatory
33 Tiff
36 Manner
37 Beige hue
38 Pair with a plow
41 Bumbling
42 Bound
44 Pants
46 Noted acting family's nobleman?
47 Fandango accompaniment
50 Thalberg's studio
52 Hokkaido native
54 Phonetic contractions
55 Pens and needles
57 Pronouncements
59 Desktop pub. items
60 Match maker?
63 Fish hawk
64 Warmongers rattle them
65 Cleo's undoing
66 Useful article
67 Hungarian composer's boat songs?
69 Chow
70 Senile ones
73 The "K" of RKO
76 Neighbor of Minn.
78 Transmitter
80 Queen's county
81 Language maven Partridge
82 Interest level
83 "— a Woman" (Beastie tune)
85 Scottish playwright's haircutters?
87 Silver category
90 Like the gang, in song
91 Stores
93 Lawmaking locale
95 Hercules's creator
97 Behind the line of scrimmage
98 Power bikes
99 Rather, informally
102 Tabby's mate
104 On
105 Maiden loved by Hercules
106 Pueblo pot
108 Dynamic introduction
109 Junket
110 To be, to Britus
112 "Yo te"
114 Tofu base
115 Have markers out

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE grid with words filled in.

كردمان التجميل



MOVIE REVIEW

# It's a dog's life

By ADINA HOFFMAN

Real, live actors and real, live puppy dogs make up the cast of the latest version of *101 Dalmatians*, a broadly physical children's film which both borrows and veers from the classic 1961 Disney cartoon. In its basic outline and dialogue, the new movie sticks quite closely to the original; in its reality-bound texture and roughhousing sense of play, it feels like a different film altogether, which is not to say that little children won't enjoy all the raucous motion and noisiness. But for anyone who knows the old animated version, the new picture feels a little cruder, a lot louder, and a good deal less fanciful.

The movie still tells the story of two single dog owners, Anita and Roger (Joely Richardson and Jeff

sharpened claws, red cigarette-lighter and skunk stole tossed flamboyantly over one sharp shoulder. A homicidally inclined fur-lover, she wants to buy the puppies so she can make herself a spotted coat; when Anita and Roger refuse to sell their beloved animals, she becomes livid and sets out to steal and slaughter the cuddly black-and-white brood.

Throughout the live-action movie, which was written by John Hughes and directed by Stephen Herek, the dogs and their owners often switch traditional places: in the opening sequence, for example, Pongo dutifully makes Roger coffee, brings in the morning newspaper and rouses his shaggy master from bed. This confusion of four- and two-legged behavior is more or less the same central joke that fueled the old animation — except for one crucial difference. While the title characters in this new *101 Dalmatians* engage in much expressive barking, sniffing and whimpering, they can't talk. (Pongo, you may remember, actually narrated the cartoon.)

Why the filmmakers decided to confine the dalmatians to plausible canine behavior is not at all clear from watching the film. And the problem isn't technological, so much as imaginative. As the delightful barnyard tale *Babe* proved, dogs and pigs and geese can talk if a director wants them to.

Aside from one long, fantastical sequence when the English countryside is filled with the urgent howls and moans of dogs relaying a message about the stolen puppies' whereabouts, the new *101 Dalmatians* sticks to a rather literal view of pets and their powers. The movie will probably excite younger children on a physical level, with its quick-moving slapstick rhythms (although the very young may in fact be frightened by Glenn Close's grotesquely witchy airs), but the film doesn't work as a fable should: there's scant wonder involved.

## 101 DALMATIANS

★1/2

Directed by Stephen Herek. Screenplay by John Hughes. Based on the book by Dodie Smith. Hebrew title: *Mei Shehad Ekarim vegamir*. 102 mins. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. General audiences.

With Glenn Close, Joely Richardson, Jeff Daniels, Joan Plowright

Daniels), and their respective dalmatians, Pongo and Perdita, who bring them together (the dogs drag their owners on bicycles down a hair-raising obstacle course through the streets of London and into each other's arms) and fall in love themselves. After the humans get married, Perdita, the bitch, gives birth to a sizable litter. In a truly bizarre variation on the Disney cartoon, Anita becomes pregnant at the same time as her dog.

Meanwhile, the operatically misanthropic dragon lady Cruella Deville (played in campy, scene-stealing fashion by Glenn Close) arrives on the scene with her



Glenn Close exhibits witchy airs and sharpened claws as Cruella Deville.

# Bartoli helps celebrate Israel's jubilee

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Music lovers here have been waiting for years to see Cecilia Bartoli, the electrifying Italian mezzo-soprano who is one of the biggest stars of today's opera and concert world. The long wait is over and Bartoli will grace local concert halls in the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's 1997/98 season, details of which were announced last week.

Bartoli will not be part of the regular season but part of a special mini-festival running April 25 to May 3, 1998, celebrating Israel's 50th birthday. Other participants in this special event will include IPO music director for life Zabin Mehta and regulars like Daniel Barenboim, Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, Radu Lupu, Yefim Bronfman and Lorin Maazel.

The IPO's 62nd season will also introduce conductors Kurt Masur, the orchestra's honorary guest conductor Antonio Pappano, the IPO's recently appointed chief guest conductor Yoel Levi, Mendi Rodan, Aldo Ceccato, Helmuth



From left: Sir Colin Davis visits with the London Symphony Orchestra; violinist Yuri Bashmet and conductor Kent Nagano make their local debut for the IPO's 62nd season.



Rilling, Giuseppe Sinopoli, Yuri Temirkanov and Pinchas Zukerman.

Among the soloists will be violinists Gil Midori, Gil Shabam, Maxim Vengerov and Silvia Marcovici, and pianists Emanuel Ax, Nikolai Demidenko and Alexander Korsantya. Also, a huge number of opera and orato-

rio singers will appear, some making their IPO debut.

Other debutants next season include violinist Yuri Bashmet, also appearing as conductor, and two of the most intriguing conductors of this day and age, never before seen here, Kent Nagano and Franz Bruggen.

Israeli maestro Daniel Oren will

make his long-awaited return to the Mann Auditorium podium, leading a concert version of Verdi's *Simone Boccanegra*, never before performed here.

Another Verdi masterpiece, *Otello*, will be led by Pappano.

Mehta opens the season with the IPO premiere of Richard Strauss's *Symphonia Domestica* as well as

with Mahler's Ninth Symphony. He will end the season with an entire Beethoven cycle. Mahler's Third Symphony will be conducted by Sinopoli at the beginning of the season and by Nagano later on, while Masur leads performances of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

Choral music delights offer a Bruckner evening, the Fauré Requiem, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* and Haydn's *The Seasons*. Other composers featured in the IPO season range from Bach to Shostakovich and from Haydn and Telemann to Bartok and Nielsen.

The coming IPO season also offers concerts by two visiting orchestras. Sir Colin Davis leads the London Symphony Orchestra in a series of concerts within the regular concert series, and Ricardo Chailly leads the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra from Amsterdam in its Israeli debut.

Altogether, this will be another season of great music, great musicians and great music making, yet, at the same time, a season that definitely lacks an adventurous approach to programming.

# NEWS of the muse

## Literature awards ...

President Ezer Weizman will present the first President's Literature Prize to authors Amalia Cahana Carmon, Moshe Sartei, David Shahar and Arabic author Nazia Hir at the opening session of the Union of Hebrew Authors congress on Thursday. Each of the winners will receive NIS 12,560.



David Shahar (Sigal Hershkovitz)

## ... and dance awards

At the 1997 Shades of Dance competition for young professionals which ended last week, the NIS 10,000 first prize for choreography went to *Angle*, choreographed and performed by Idit Herman and Dimitri Tulpanov. Yuval Pik and Jerome Maier each won NIS 5,000 for, respectively, *Livers* and *Violin Walking on Cold Soap*. The three-week summer course scholarship in London's Labat Center donated by the British Council went to Yoram Carmi for *Aspekaria*. This was the ninth Shades, and 24 dances premiered over the four days of the festival.

Helen Kaye

## Talkative silence

"We use whatever crosses our path and that of the people we're working with," said choreographer Amanda Miller, introducing the strikingly original intricacies of *Toy Artist*, the dance she and her partner of a decade, dramaturge and designer Seth Tillett, are creating for the Batsheva Dance Company. The piece for six dancers, which explores the transition points between the mechanical and the human, will have its world premiere on May 3 at the Suzanne Dellal Dance Center. The program also includes a work by Batsheva artistic director Ohad Naharin and the Israeli premiere of *No Sleep till Dawn of Day* by Jiri Kylian. Miller, a former dancer, danced with and was in-house choreographer for William Forsythe's Frankfurt Ballet from 1986 until 1992 when she formed her own multi-disciplinary company called Pretty Ugly Dance Company, "which does have some dancers," to quote Miller, and which has achieved worldwide recognition.

Helen Kaye

## Wedding bells for Brooke

Actress Brooke Shields and tennis star Andre Agassi were married on Saturday in a quiet ceremony in a small chapel in California, with about 100 friends and family members present.

The couple were escorted down the aisle by three bridesmaids wearing gold, backless dresses. Shields, who wore a white gown with a long train with her blonde hair combed straight back, smiled as she prepared to take her wedding vows, guests at the ceremony told reporters.

Shields, 31, who found stardom as a teenager, most notably for her role in the 1980 movie *The Blue Lagoon*, and Agassi, 26, once ranked the world's No. 1 tennis player, were engaged for two years before their marriage.



Brooke Shields (AFP)

## Glennie makes Israeli debut

Evelyn Glennie is not just any musician. The English percussionist began her music career only after she became totally deaf at age 12. Now, Glennie is one of the most sought-after percussionists in the world, with a large discography to her credit and with a globe-trotting concert career. She appears in a one-off concert at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center on May 6 in which she performs a wide range of contemporary compositions including her own *Light in the Darkness*.

Michael Ajzenstadt

## Let's sing together

While the list of Pessah music festivals is growing by the moment, details were recently announced of the Abu Ghosh Choral Music Festival which takes place on Shavuot (June 10-14). The highlight of the coming edition of one of the most intriguing, evocative and successful festivals in Israel (both artistically and organization-wise) will be a sing-along *Messiah*, in which the ticket-buying audience will provide an 800-strong choir singing, under the baton of Stanley Sperber, all the choruses of Handel's most popular oratorio including that glorious "Hallelujah."

Michael Ajzenstadt

## Israelis abroad

Local musicians continue to score successes in performances abroad. Pianist Emanuel Krasovsky presented an all-Schubert recital in Mannheim, Germany, while flutist Wendy Eisler-Kashy, soprano Robin Weisel-Capsouto and pianist Allan Siermfeld performed an all-Israeli program (works by the late Paul Ben-Haim and contemporary composers Tsippi Fleischer, Avraham Amzaleg, Yehzekel Braun, Max Stern, Joseph Tal, Ami Ma'ayani, Ya'acov Gilboa and Dina Smorgansky) at the Musical Spring in St. Petersburg festival.

Michael Ajzenstadt

# Entertainment for the soul

By HELEN KAYE

No wonder the audience falls in love at once. He's a gorgeous hunk with green eyes and a dimple. She's stunning with a sheaf of blonde hair and a heart-melting smile. They are Eliran Caspi and Irena Shulman, the stars and only actors in the Nephesh (Soul) Theater. English-language production of Yitzhak Meshel's *Make Yourself at Home* directed by Howard Rypp. And the credit for hiring this toothsome twosome also goes to him.

Rypp is the founding artistic director of the independent Nephesh Theater, and he has been producing plays locally almost from the day he immigrated from his native Canada in 1983. Currently, Nephesh is running 12 shows employing some 35 actors. Some of the shows are already in their sixth or seventh season and all play countrywide.

"We've come to the point where I'm either going to have to downsize, or expand and get some funding," he smiles, half ruefully.

We're sitting in the pleasant Tel Aviv apartment that he shares with his life-partner, actress Beatrice Hall, and which also serves as the theater's office. What he doesn't say is

that he's a quiet revolutionary. Nephesh has pioneered the "pluvie" or movie play, in which live action interacts with a film as the takeoff on the Bogart type private-eye movie called *The Last Trick*, or *Only in the Movies*, a "pluvie" based on the murder of cabbie Derek Roth by teenagers.

Altogether, Nephesh has done about 50 shows and "only two of them didn't take off." About 80 percent of the theater's NIS 1.2 million budget is income from various productions.

He established the theater in Toronto, 18 years ago, when "I had a play called *Children of the Night* about Janusz Korczak and his children. It needed 30 child and 10 adult actors, and nobody wanted to touch it. Nobody in Canada knew about Korczak."

The play was a huge hit all over Canada, and "we went on doing plays with a Jewish content. But I've always been a Zionist. Before I came I worked as an assistant director at Habimah for a year to see if I could work here."

"I reconstituted the company after I made aliya and our first show was *Eisenstein* at Habimah in 1985. Since then, we've changed. The plays we do now have a social and educational value, but they have to be good theater first."

*Make Yourself at Home* epitomizes educational theater with a social conscience, and is also a charmer from curtain to curtain. Eliran plays Aviv, your typical post-combat-unit upwardly mobile Israeli. Shulman plays Natasha, a violinist from the USSR. She lands on Aviv's doorstep at 2:30 in the morning straight from the airport. It's the right address, but the wrong person, and Aviv makes no bones about wanting her outta there, and now. Welcoming, he isn't.

Woebegone, she leaves and seconds later is back. Her luggage has been stolen. Well, from that minute the happy end is almost a foregone conclusion but playwright Meshel's script takes you there with wit and intelligence.

"I was very suspicious of the play because of the new immigrant from Russia aspect," says the delectable Shulman, "but when I read it, I have to confess I cried because it reached something in my memories."

Shulman is 24 and immigrated from her native Kiev in 1990 where she had been working as a professional mime since the age of 15. Here, stuntman friends told her a movie company needed a stuntwoman. With nothing to lose, she applied, was accepted, and has

done stunts in more than half a dozen movies, not to mention commercials and TV shows. She also managed to graduate last year from the Nissan Nativ Studio, is working on a street-theater project for the Haifa Children's Theater Festival on *Hol Hamo'ed Pessah*, and has a guest-star role as a Russian prostitute on Channel 3's *Deep Blue*.

Caspi, 29, is also guest starring in a couple of *Deep Blue* segments, as the bad guy. He graduated from the Seminar Hakibbutzim theater department in 1993 and "chose not to go into repertory theater." He and his actress wife Ronit have their own small theater company "and that's why I was so attracted to Howard because he does things his way."

The original version of *Make Yourself at Home* premiered in Hebrew in 1991 and ran for 350 performances. Author Meshel, himself an immigrant from the US, did the English version of course.

And Rypp, who has only done one other English-language production with Nephesh (Wolf Mankowitz's *The Irish Hebrew Lesson*), decided to do it in English "because it's ideal for people who want to feel at home here. And you can. If you're patient."

# A speedy recovery for Arnie

By LYNN ELBER

Arnold Schwarzenegger may be recovering from elective heart surgery — but he hasn't lost his action-hero standing.

Schwarzenegger, 49, was recovering Thursday after undergoing replacement of a faulty aortic valve the day before and was listed in stable condition, spokeswoman Catherine Olim said.

The bodybuilder-turned-actor was expected to return to full health without any changes in his lifestyle or need for further treatment, she said.

Schwarzenegger, whose films include the stunt-filled *Terminator* and *True Lies*, will remain a marketable action hero, industry insiders predicted. Schwarzenegger has tried to extend his career beyond the action genre with comedies such as *Twins*. His latest role is that of villainous Mr. Freeze in the upcoming *Batman and Robin*. He'll rest until the end of May, when he will begin promoting the film starring George Clooney as Batman. (AP)

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## BUSINESS

in brief

### Ministry: Asian investors indifferent to crisis

Far East investors are not canceling visits to Israel or requests for information because of the Bar-On Affair, according to the Foreign Ministry. Media reports yesterday were claiming that delegations were canceling intended visits.

"Clearly people are worried, as it is obvious the political situation is bound to have some influence on the economy, with some countries more sensitive than others," a senior ministry source said. "But business with Korea is as usual or even more intensified, and there are no problems with China." Indeed, China's senior economics minister, the chairman of the State Planning Commission, is scheduled to arrive here at the head of a large delegation soon after Pessah.

David Harris

### Apartment purchase tax brackets updated

Purchase tax brackets on apartments have been raised by 3.61 percent. The changes were made in line with the Central Bureau of Statistics house-price index, which comprises a major part of the Consumer Price Index. The update means, for example, that purchase tax is payable at 0.5% on the first NIS 405,510, rather than NIS 391,370. From NIS 405,510 to NIS 629,380 the rate rises to 3.5%, and a further percentage above that bracket. New immigrants now pay 0.5% on the first NIS 916,820, and above that the payment increases to 4.5%.

David Harris

### Interest rate announcement rescheduled

The Bank of Israel will announce May's key leading rates this Thursday at 5 p.m., rather than next Monday, the last in the month, which is the central bank's traditional time for such announcements. Monday is the last day of Pessah, and on Sunday most relevant bodies - particularly the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange - will be closed, meaning the decision was taken to make the announcement on the last trading day this week.

David Harris

### US trade deficit narrows

America's trade deficit in February narrowed to \$10.4 billion, after setting a record the previous month, the US Commerce Department said. The announcement came after the department corrected a sizable error that had overstated the trade gap. The department had originally reported the February deficit was \$1.2b. larger, at \$11.6b., before discovering a major miscalculation of oil imports. Commerce Undersecretary Everett Ehrlich called the size of the error unprecedented and blamed it on miscommunication between his agency, which compiles the trade statistics, and the Customs Service, which gathers the raw data.

AP

# Number of foreign tourists for Pessah down 10-15%

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The number of foreign tourists this Pessah will be some 15 percent lower than what it was last year, Tourism Ministry spokeswoman Orly Doron estimated yesterday.

However, a large percentage of those coming for the holiday are Israelis living abroad, who did not show up in ministry statistics as visitors from abroad, Doron said.

During Pessah itself, however, most hotels expect full occupancy, apparently thanks to local orders, according to Hotel Association director Avi Rosental.

Rosental said much of the gap left by the incoming tourists is being taken up by Israelis, except in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, cities that

usually enjoy a brisk business from foreign visitors during the holiday.

Rosental estimated that incoming tourism for the holiday was down by over 10% this year than in 1996. He said hotels in the traditional Israeli getaway places, such as Tiberias and Eilat, will enjoy 90-100% occupancy during the holiday, together with hotels at the Dead Sea, in Galilee and Haifa and in the kibbutzim. The occupancy in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv will range at from 70-80%; he said.

This was verified by Amzor Mader, general manager of the Radisson Moriah Hotel chain, who said all the chain's hotels, except those in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, were fully booked for Pessah. The chain was still offering special deals

for rooms in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem during the holiday.

He pointed out, however, that there are some 2,000 more hotel rooms this year than in 1996. He also noted that one reason for the apparent drop is that the dates of Pessah and Easter do not coincide. In fact, he said, when compared with a decline in incoming tourism of 18% during the first three months of 1997, the holiday figures seemed to be encouraging.

"In comparison with our figures for the first quarter, I see some room for optimism," Rosental said.

Chuzi Amiel, president of Amiel Tours, one of the largest local companies dealing in incoming tourism, said he could see no significant change in the slump of the past year.

Many of those who would like to visit Israel were sitting on the fence, he said, waiting to see how the political situation develops.

"If it is quiet they will come back; if there is an escalation in violence they will stay away," Amiel said.

He also said that at least in part, Christian tourists were less deterred by political unrest than Jewish ones. He added that his company was also working on health tourism, a market which was less susceptible to political ups and downs.

In the absence of growth in incoming tourism, he said, Amiel has been concentrating on developing tour packages for Israelis going abroad.

EI AI spokesman Nachman Klieman also commented on the

continuing traffic of Israelis abroad who, he said, were going in record numbers. Although there was a wide variety of destinations, the favorite was still the US, with EI AI sending a special direct flight to Orlando.

In Europe, the biggest destinations were London and Paris, with Turkey and Cyprus for those who wanted to be close to home.

Although there was no rise in incoming tourism, EI AI still had full planes flying in before the holiday with expatriate Israelis and religious, who would spend the holiday with relatives. They provided a income for the airline, but did not affect the local tourism industry, he said.

"Many of these people will not be leaving dollars in hotels," Klieman said.



**Selling the nation's 'hametz'**  
Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau sells the country's 'hametz' to Abu Ghosh resident Hussein Jaber in a ceremony at the Chief Rabbinate yesterday.

(Brian Hestler)

## Pace of industrial growth up 0.1%

By DAVID HARRIS

The pace of industrial production growth rose 0.1 percent in January and February, according to initial figures published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The estimates point to a "steadiness" in production, excluding diamonds, in the first two months, in comparison to the last quarter of 1996.

This data is based on a first look at statistics gathered from factories across the country. "It will take several weeks yet to establish the exact growth rate for the first two months," said Central Bureau spokesman David Neumann.

The figures, which are inflation and seasonally adjusted, show a continued decline in the growth rate since the first quarter of 1996. Then the rate was a monthly average of 0.5%, by the second quarter it had slowed to 0.3%, and through the second half of 1996 it was down to 0.1% a month, a rate which appears to have continued into 1997.

Overall industrial production (excluding diamonds) grew 5.5% last year, a sharp drop from the 8.5% growth rate registered in 1995.

Growth has been strongest in recent months in the production of electronic communications equipment, electronic components manufacturing, jewelry and chemicals.

Production growth in the food and drinks sector has remained unchanged, with growth slowing in the shoe and leather industry, textiles and clothing industries.

Economists, including Hebrew University's Ephraim Kleiman, offer three main reasons for the slowdown in growth: the decline in the amount of goods being exported, the after-effects of immigration beginning to wane, and the peace process euphoria clearly in decline.

In exports, an example of the decline was reported recently by the Kibbutz Industry Association, which said its exports were stagnant last year in real terms, despite a 3.5% increase in dollar terms.

Meanwhile, the growth pace of general sales in retail and chain stores reached an annual 9% in the first quarter this year, the Central Bureau added. This compares to the 6% to 7% annual rate recorded in the last quarter of 1996.

Overall sales last year were up 12% on the comparable figure for 1995. This survey covers sales of food, textiles, clothing, footwear, durable goods, and others, but does not include motor vehicles, vehicle parts or fuels.

## US congressman demands probe into matza prices

By DONALD BAKER

MIAMI - Something isn't kosher with the price of matza this Pessah in the US.

Its cost mysteriously begins to rise this time of year. Prices vary so much throughout the country that a Florida congressman, Rep. Robert Wexler, has asked for an investigation.

Publix, one of Florida's two largest supermarket chains, sells a 2.3-kilo box of matza for \$12, while the same brand at Ralph's supermarkets in Los Angeles goes for just \$3. At a Giant market in Bethesda, Maryland, the price is \$10.

Florida Attorney General Bob Butterworth has subpoenaed records from two manufacturers

and seven distributors of matza, but they are not required to respond until next month, after the holiday is past.

"It's the biggest thing since the Pharaoh let us out of Egypt," quipped Wexler, who said his office has received more than 200 complaints from residents of his South Florida district.

While there is "some lightness to the situation," Wexler said, it is also "very upsetting, because there seems to be no rationale" to the prices.

One of Wexler's constituents, Sylvia Confino of Boca Raton, sued two major manufacturers, accusing them of price fixing.

Confino, who retired to Florida from New Jersey with her husband, was one of several consumers who

contacted a law firm in West Palm Beach that specializes in class-action suits.

The manufacturers are not to blame, said Mel Gross, vice president of Aron Streit Inc., the nation's second-largest manufacturer of matza after B. Manischewitz Co.

"Matza is sold in all areas of the country at one price" to distributors, he said.

Gross, who would not say what that price is, said "certain retailers are using matza as a marketing tool," choosing to use the product as a loss-leader. At least two New York-area chains are giving matza away to attract customers, he noted.

Jennifer Bush, spokeswoman for Publix, which has 448 stores in Florida, said the chain is passing along matza to its customers at cost.

When asked why Publix's stores in the Atlanta area can sell the same matza for \$9, Bush pointed to competitive pressures. "It's still costing us the same," she said. "We're just losing \$3 on each sale."

The cost of matza is down 22 percent over last year in New York City. But even there, prices fluctuate widely in the boroughs. In the Bronx, the average price is just \$3.99, while in Manhattan the same product is \$8.34.

"Some women completely fainted when they heard about the price in Manhattan," said Shonna Keogan of the city's office of consumer affairs.

(The Washington Post)

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Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.875	0.925
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U.S. dollar	3.9888	4.0222	3.91	3.95	3.9200
German mark	1.9829	1.9946	1.92	1.93	1.9200
Pound sterling	5.4953	5.5880	5.40	5.47	5.5300
French franc	0.5828	0.5924	0.57	0.57	0.5700
Japanese yen (100)	2.6792	2.7184	2.67	2.67	2.6800
Dutch florin	1.7482	1.7744	1.72	1.72	1.7200
Swiss franc	2.3077	2.3450	2.28	2.28	2.2800
Swedish krona	0.4576	0.4649	0.45	0.45	0.4500
Norwegian krona	0.4790	0.4907	0.48	0.48	0.4800
Danish krona	0.9150	0.9284	0.91	0.91	0.9100
Finnish mark	0.8482	0.8567	0.84	0.84	0.8400
Canadian dollar	2.4054	2.4442	2.38	2.38	2.3800
Australian dollar	2.0116	2.0388	2.00	2.00	2.0000
S. African rand	0.7683	0.7885	0.76	0.76	0.7600
Belgian franc (10)	0.9512	0.9685	0.95	0.95	0.9500
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7886	2.8336	2.78	2.78	2.7800
Italian lira (100)	1.9871	2.0182	1.98	1.98	1.9800
Jordanian dinar	4.9920	5.0100	4.99	4.99	4.9900
Egyptian pound	0.9870	1.0400	0.98	0.98	0.9800
ECU	3.8983	3.9582	3.89	3.89	3.8900
Irish punt	5.2183	5.3015	5.19	5.19	5.1900
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2827	2.3202	2.28	2.28	2.2800

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

מכירת פיקוד תשלום







# SPORTS

in brief

## Bruck reaches third swimming final

Yovav Bruck successfully completed his three-pronged attack on the world short course swimming championships in Gothenburg, Sweden by reaching the third of three finals yesterday.

In the 50 meters freestyle, Bruck finished sixth, his best placing during the championships, with a time of 22:32. In the morning heats he had tied in sixth/seventh places with a time of 22:36.

On Saturday in the 100m freestyle, Bruck finished seventh in the finals, in 49:17, beating a swimmer from Germany, while he won his heat in the morning in 49:06.

Bruck's other appearance in a final came in the 200m freestyle where he took seventh place in a time of 1:47:83. *Heather Chait*

## Krajicek, Sugiyama triumph in Japan Open

TOKYO (Reuters) - Top seed Richard Krajicek overcame France's Lionel Roux - and frustration with his own serve - to capture the Japan Open title yesterday.

The Dutch reigning Wimbledon champion needed three sets to take the \$154,000 first prize 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 while in the women's event local player Ai Sugiyama took \$27,000 and the title by beating American Amy Frazier 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

## Hooligans set buildings ablaze in Warsaw derby

WARSAW (Reuters) - Soccer hooligans set several buildings on fire and injured 10 policemen during a match between the Polish capital's two first division clubs, the television *Panorama* program reported on Saturday.

The television showed bench-throwing fans clashing with armed police. Smoke belled from storage warehouses near the stands.

The match, which pitted league leaders Legia and fifth-placed Polonia, ended in a 1-1 draw.

## Castro wins fast Rotterdam Marathon

ROTTERDAM (AP) - Portugal's Domingos Castro took on a top-flight field yesterday and won the 17th Rotterdam Marathon in 2 hours 7 minutes and 51 seconds. Castro launched his final attack with two kilometers left suddenly opening up a ten-meter gap on Spanish marathon debutante Alejandro Gomez, who finished second in 2:07:54. Kenya's Sammy Korir was third in 2:08:02.

Kenya's Tegla Louropou, running the closing stages in a personal battle against the clock, won the women's event in 2:22:07, cutting a massive 51/2 minutes off her 3-year-old personal best.

Marleen Renders of Belgium came in second with 2:25:56. Japan's Makiko Ito finished third in 2:26:03.

The flat Rotterdam course was predicted to run faster than usual this year after the Erasmus bridge over the Maas river was incorporated in the route, cutting out several sharp bends.

## IOC team to inspect Sydney Games budget

SYDNEY (Reuters) - International Olympic Committee (IOC) officials will begin a close examination of the ever-expanding budget for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games today, local organizers said yesterday.

The 16 members of the IOC co-ordination commission arrived at the weekend for informal talks ahead of the official start of their inspection tour today. The commission will examine the budget of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) and the New South Wales (NSW) state government's planned Games spending.

Senior IOC official Thierry Springer was quoted in *The Sydney Morning Herald* newspaper last week as saying he thought it was important for Olympic Games to break even and "not dig too much into the taxpayers' pockets."

Whether that will happen has become the focus of attention for politicians and media observers. SOCOG said 10 days ago they expected a budget surplus of up to A\$50 million (US\$38.5 million) and had set up a A\$150 million "rainy day" fund.

At the same time, however, opposition politicians introduced proposed legislation aimed at forcing the government to make regular reports on the cost of the Games, including expenditure reviews and estimates of future costs.

SOCOG president Michael Knight said the A\$150 million contingency fund was set up for unexpected expenses. SOCOG would also make a payment of A\$200 million to the NSW government to help pay for the building of Olympic facilities, he said.

Lingering questions remain over the finances of the Olympic Coordination Authority, the NSW government body charged with building Olympic facilities.

The NSW government said in its 1996/97 budget that the cost of building Games infrastructure had risen to A\$1.91 billion from an original budget of A\$1.54 billion, raising fears that the state's taxpayers would be left to fund the cost overrun.

SOCOG's budget has grown to A\$2.4 billion from the A\$1.7 billion in their bid to the IOC. SOCOG have said A\$1.6 billion would come from television rights, A\$500 million from major sponsors and the rest from merchandising and ticket sales.

## Hendry makes good start to defence of world title

SHEFFIELD (Reuters) - Stephen Hendry made a successful start to what many have predicted would be a difficult defence of his world snooker title on Saturday with a 10-6 victory over Englishman Andy Hicks.

The Scottish champion and top seed, bidding for a record seventh title, led 6-3 after the morning session against the 1995 semifinalist and was never threatened in the evening.

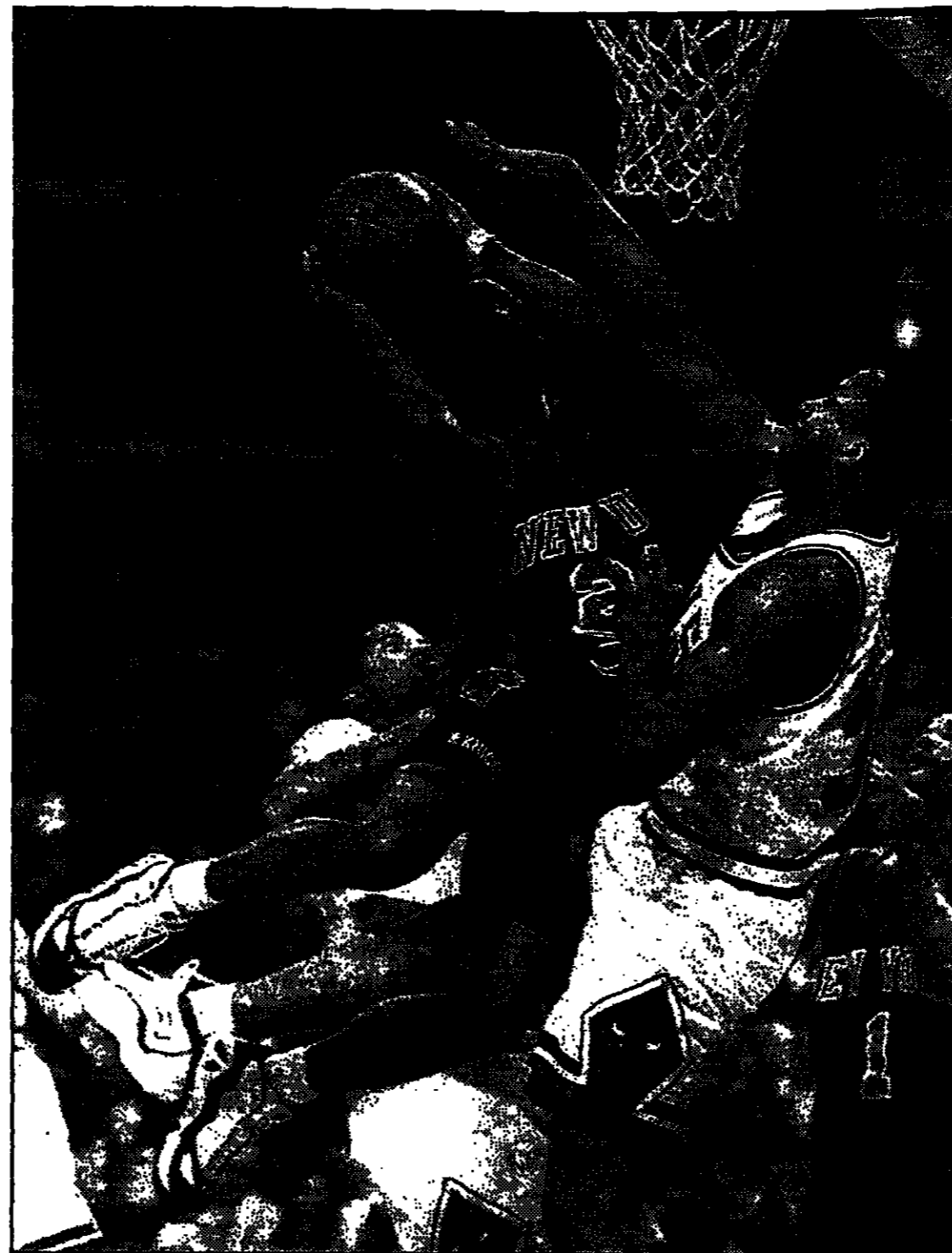
He got to the brink of victory at 9-4 before Hicks resisted briefly by winning two frames before

Hendry sewed it up.

Hicks, unseeded this year, was swamped in the first three frames which he lost 73-48, 85-0 and 90-43 before taking the fourth with a break of 74. But the holder took the next two with a break of 82 in the fifth and good safety play in the sixth.

Hicks reminded the six-times champion of his fighting qualities by taking the next two frames to make it 5-3, but Hendry had the last word as a 69 break earned him the final frame of the session.

Welshman Mark Williams, who



POWER PLAY - New York Knicks' Charlie Ward leaps into Chicago Bulls' Jason Caffey as he heads for the basket during first quarter action in Chicago on Sunday. (Reuters)

## Knicks stop Bulls from gaining 70th win

CHICAGO (AP) - The New York Knicks clinched the third seed in the Eastern Conference and kept the Bulls from repeating as 70-game winners by beating Chicago 103-101 Saturday night.

The Knicks finished 57-25 and earned the right to avoid the defending NBA champion Bulls until the Eastern Conference finals, if both teams get that far.

New York won at the United Center for the first time. The Knicks had lost eight in a row in the building, which opened in 1994, and 11 straight at Chicago.

The Bulls ended up 69-13 after going 72-10 last season, when they became the only team to break the 70-win barrier. The loss also snapped the Bulls' 32-game home winning streak and prevented them from matching the 1985-86 Boston Celtics' 40-1 home record.

Patrick Ewing scored 27 points for the Knicks, while Michael Jordan led the Bulls with 33.

Hawks 136, 76ers 104  
In Atlanta, the Hawks, despite a win over Philadelphia, lost its bid to gain the No. 3 seed in the East when New York beat Chicago.

If the Knicks had lost, the Hawks could have grabbed third Sunday by winning at New Jersey.

Steve Smith led Atlanta with 21 points. It was the final regu-

lar-season game at the Omni, which will be torn down this summer. A new arena will built in its place and should open for the 1998-99 season.

Heat 102, Magic 88  
In Miami, the Heat and Magic didn't put on much of a playoff preview as both teams rested their best players.

The teams will meet in the first round of the playoffs beginning next Thursday or Friday. Miami's Tim Hardaway and Alonzo Mourning and Orlando's Rony Seikaly and Horace Grant didn't play. Magic point guard Penny Hardaway played the first five minutes and didn't return.

Dan Majerle scored 18 points and John Crotty had 17 to lead the Heat, who made 10 3-pointers.

Nuggets 100, Mavericks 95  
In Dallas, Ervin Johnson had 21 points and a career-high 26 rebounds, and Kenny Smith made four free throws in the final 32.5 seconds as Denver avoided its worst record ever.

The Nuggets also avoided their first-ever winless month, ended a 10-game losing streak and stopped a 14-game road losing

streak.

Denver ended the year 21-61, narrowly avoiding a tie with its 1990-91 squad for the worst record in team history at 20-62.

Tom Hammond led the Nuggets with 24 points.

Jazz 101, Timberwolves 89  
In Salt Lake City, Karl Malone scored 26 points in 25 minutes and John Stockton added 14 points and 12 assists as Utah prevented Minnesota from reaching the 500 mark.

James Robinson led the Timberwolves with 28 points, including seven 3-pointers.

Although denied a break-even record, the final 40-42 mark was Minnesota's best in eight NBA seasons and was enough to get the Timberwolves into the playoffs for the first time.

Utah, which wrapped up the best record in the Western Conference more than a week ago, will open the first round of the playoffs against the Los Angeles Clippers on Thursday night.

The Jazz won a franchise-record 63 games and finished with a club-record 38-3 mark at home.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W L Pct GB

y-Miami 81 21 .744 -

x-New York 57 25 .695 4

x-Orlando 45 37 .549 16

Washington 43 38 .531 17

New Jersey 25 56 .309 35 1/2

Philadelphia 22 60 .268 39

Boston 15 66 .185 45 1/2

Central Division

x-Chicago 69 13 .841 -

x-Atlanta 58 25 .691 12 1/2

x-Charlotte 54 27 .667 14 1/2

x-Detroit 53 28 .654 15 1/2

Cleveland 42 39 .519 26 1/2

Indiana 39 42 .481 29 1/2

Milwaukee 32 49 .395 36 1/2

Toronto 29 52 .358 39 1/2

z-clinched conference title y-clinched division title x-clinched playoff berth

Saturday's results: Miami 102, Orlando 88; Atlanta 136, Philadelphia 104; New York 103, Chicago 101; Denver 100, Dallas 95; Utah 101, Minnesota 89; Vancouver 121, Phoenix 107; Seattle 125, LA Clippers 100; Sacramento 122, Golden State 120 (OT).

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W L Pct GB

x-Utah 63 18 .778 -

x-Houston 56 25 .691 7

x-Minnesota 40 42 .488 23 1/2

Dallas 24 58 .293 39 1/2

Denver 21 61 .256 42 1/2

San Antonio 20 61 .247 43

Vancouver 14 68 .171 49 1/2

Pacific Division

x-Seattle 57 25 .691 -

x-LA Lakers 56 25 .691 1/2

x-Portland 48 33 .593 8 1/2

x-Phoenix 40 42 .488 17

x-LA Clippers 36 48 .438 21

Sacramento 34 47 .425 22 1/2

Golden State 30 52 .366 27

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ (Reuters) - The New Jersey Devils and the Philadelphia Flyers took 2-0 leads in their Eastern Conference quarterfinal playoff series on Saturday.

And the Ottawa Senators, with a 3-1 victory, evened their best-of-seven-games series 1-1 against the Buffalo Sabres.

On the Devils ice in East Rutherford, John MacLean scored two of New Jersey's three power-play goals to lead the Devils to a 4-1 victory over the Montreal Canadiens.

Bill Guerin had the other power-play goal for New Jersey, which never scored more than twice with the man advantage in any game during the regular season. The Devils, who finished 23rd in the NHL on the power play, are 4-for-12 in this series.

"It's a different season," MacLean said. "We struggled in the first game against them on the power play, they scored two short-handed goals. We kept it a little basic - move the puck, one pass, two passes and put it on net and see what happens."

"You've got to get as many shots as you can and that's what we tried to do tonight and it was successful," Brian Savage had the lone goal for Montreal, which hosts Game Three tomorrow.

In Philadelphia, Trent Klatt's fluke goal with 6:20 remaining gave the Flyers a 3-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Klatt's shot from the low left deflected off circle deflected in front and rolled briefly onto the top of the net. It dropped onto the goal

line and goaltender Ken Wregget knocked it in while scrambling to corral it.

Garth Snow made 28 saves in his second straight start for Philadelphia, which also got goals from Joel Otto and John LeClair.

In Buffalo, Ron Tugnutt bounced back from a shaky outing in Game One of the playoffs to stop 23 shots and Daniel Alfredsson had a goal and an assist to lead the Senators past the Sabres.

Tugnutt, who surrendered two third-period goals on just five shots in a 3-1 loss in Game One, was at his best in the middle of the third period. He turned aside a series of Buffalo shots to preserve his first career playoff victory and the first in franchise history.

"We weren't happy after Game One but we also realized that we got our feet wet," Tugnutt said.

"Buffalo showed us what it takes to win. We knew come Game Two we were going to have to change our way of playing the game."

Andreas Dackell got Ottawa on the board just 2:48 into the game, and Steve Duchesne pushed the advantage to 2-0 at 8:37 of the second period. Duchesne, one of a handful of playoff veterans on the Senators, poked home his own rebound for the eventual game-winner.

After Randy Burridge's second goal of the series halved the deficit midway through the second period, Alfredsson scored just 18 seconds into the third.

"We got a little rambunctious, trying to make hits," Sabres coach Ted Nolan said. "We just got out of sync a little bit."

## SCOREBOARD

BRITISH SOCCER: Division One: Stoke 2, Port Vale 0. Division Two: Bristol Rovers 2, Notts County 0. Scottish Premier: Celtic 3, Aberdeen 0.

## Some college stars take back seat at NFL draft

NEW YORK (AP) - Some of college football's biggest stars had plenty of time to kill during the first day of the NFL draft.

Troy Davis, second in Heisman Trophy voting, was taken in the third round by New Orleans but the player who won the trophy, Florida quarterback Danny Wuerffel, was still available when NFL teams ended the first of two sessions after the third round Saturday night.

Several big campus heroes had to wait until the second round to hear their names called. That was not the case for Orlando Pace.

Pace - the biggest name and one of the biggest in size at 6-foot-7 (2.01m), 340 pounds (155 kgs) - was taken No. 1 by the St. Louis Rams, as expected. He is the first offensive lineman taken No. 1 in 29 years - since Minnesota went for Ron Yary with the top pick in 1968.

The Seattle Seahawks seemed to reap the most from this draft, trading up to get two of the top six picks - cornerback Shawn Springs, Pace's Ohio State teammate, and offensive tackle Walter Jones of Florida State.

San Francisco, shopping for a young quarter-

back for the first time after nearly two decades of Joe Montana and Steve Young, took Virginia Tech's Jim Druckenmiller with the 26th pick of the first round.

But Jake Plummer, the Arizona State quarterback who took the Sun Devils to within a game of the national collegiate championship, didn't go until 42nd overall. He gets to stay home, however, a second-round pick of the Arizona Cardinals, who play in Sun Devil Stadium.

Davis, the Iowa State running back, was finally chosen by New Orleans with the second pick of the third round.

George Young, the New York Giants general manager, used college achievement to justify his team's choice of Florida wide receiver Ike Hilliard, Wuerffel's favorite target, with the seventh overall pick.

"The guy is a real good player on a national championship team, and on national television before 100 million people he had as good a game as a wide receiver has ever had," Young said, referring to Florida's win over Florida State in the Sugar Bowl. "Seven catches for 150 yards to win a national championship. You

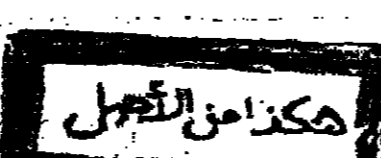
want to say that's a surprise pick? I beg your pardon." Not only was the draft big for the Seahawks, it was a big draft for offensive linemen, cornerbacks, Florida State, Ohio State, the state of Florida, and El Camino High School in Oceanside, California, whose cornerbacks Bryant Westbrook of Texas and Michael Booker of Nebraska were teammates.

Westbrook was chosen fifth overall by Detroit and Booker went 11th to Atlanta.

Four of the top 11 picks were cornerbacks and three were offensive linemen.

Pace and Springs gave Ohio State the first and third picks in the draft. Florida State had four of the top 14: Peter Boulware by Baltimore at No. 4; Jones by Seattle at No. 6; Wuerffel and Reinard Wilson at No. 12; and defensive end is expected to make him a linebacker.

Nine of the top 18 picks played at Florida colleges - two at Florida and three at Miami, in addition to the Seminoles contingent.





# Winless Cubs match longest losing streak in loss to Mets

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The winless Chicago Cubs matched the longest losing streak in their 122-year history with their 13th straight, falling 6-3 Saturday to the New York Mets.

Turk Wendell (0-2) — who, appropriately, wears No. 13 — took the loss. The superstitious reliever issued a leadoff walk in the seventh inning and an error set up Lance Johnson's tiebreaking sacrifice fly. A misplayed fly ball and a botched relay added two runs in the eighth.

The Cubs, who already owned the worst start in NL history, tied the 1904 Washington Senators and 1920 Detroit Tigers for the second-worst start ever at 0-13. Only the 1988 Baltimore Orioles were worse at 0-21.

Mark Clark (1-1) allowed three runs and five hits in seven innings. John Franco got four outs for his third save.

**Pirates 6, Reds 5**  
In Pittsburgh, Jermaine Allenworth scored on Kevin Elster's sacrifice fly in the ninth as Pittsburgh Pirates manufactured the winning run without a hit.

The Pirates blew a 4-0 lead, then rallied to tie it on Elster's RBI single in the seventh. The Reds have lost five of six overall and nine of 10 on the road.

Ricardo Rincon (1-1) struck out five in two scoreless innings. Mike Remlinger (0-1) was the loser.

**Braves 8, Rockies 7**  
In Denver, Kenny Lofton finished a home run short of the cycle and Denny Neagle (2-0) won for the first time in five starts at Colorado as Atlanta won its seventh straight.

Ryan Klesko added a three-run homer and an RBI double for the Braves, who improved to 37-13 against Colorado. Atlanta is 13-1 following two losses that started the season.

Kevin Ritz (1-3) was pounded for seven runs and 12 hits in six innings. With the tying run on third, Quinton McCracken lined to shortstop for the final out, giving Mike Bielecki his first save.

**Giants 3, Marlins 2**  
In San Francisco, right fielder Gary Sheffield lost Glenallen Hill's routine fly, which dropped for a two-run double in the eighth.

San Francisco, which has six come-from-behind wins, is off to a 12-3 start, its best since 1971. The Giants have won eight straight, their longest winning streak since a nine-gamer from July 7-18, 1994.

Shawn Estes (3-0) gave up two runs and four hits in eight innings. Rod Beck pitched a perfect ninth for his major-league leading ninth save. Tony Saunders (0-1) was the loser.

**Phillies 10, Expos 8**  
In Philadelphia, Greg Jefferies drove in three runs and Kevin Stocker stole home as Philadelphia scored its most runs this season.

Montreal lost for the ninth time in 11 games, allowing five unearned runs in the second following a throwing error by third baseman Shane Andrews.

With Philadelphia trailing 6-5, Scott Rolen hit a two-run double in the fifth off Carlos Perez (2-1).

Mark Leiter (2-1) allowed six runs and five hits in six innings. Ricky Bottalico got three outs for his fourth save.

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

**Athletics 7, Tigers 1**  
In Detroit, Mark McGwire hit his fifth homer and Willie Adams won on the road for the first time in eight career starts as the Oakland Athletics beat Detroit 7-1 Saturday, sending the Tigers to their fourth consecutive loss.

Geronimo Berroa homered and added a two-run double, and Damon Mashore reached base five straight times with three singles and two walks.

Adams (1-1), who retired 17 straight, gave up three hits in 7 2-3 innings and struck out nine.

Justin Thompson (1-1) gave up four runs and eight hits in six innings.

**Indians 11, Brewers 6**  
In Cleveland, Manny Ramirez went 4-for-5 for the Indians.

Milwaukee second baseman Fernando Vina, batting .321 and coming off a five-RBI game Friday, fractured his left leg when he jammed his left foot into the base while stealing second in the first inning.

Milwaukee said Vina will have surgery for a fractured fibula and miss two months.

Charles Nagy (2-1) survived two homers by John Jaha. Cal Eldred (2-1) gave up six runs on eight hits in 3 1-3 innings.

**Yankees 3, White Sox 2**  
In Chicago, Tino Martinez hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning off Tony Castillo (1-2) as New York overcame its first five-error game since Oct. 1, 1989. It was the Yankees' second straight victory following a five-game losing streak.

New York starter Kenny Rogers (1-1) gave up only three hits over

7 1-3 innings, but he also committed two errors — matching his 1996 total.

Mariano Rivera, who had blown three of his first six save opportunities, got four outs for his fourth save.

## National League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	13	3	.813	-
Florida	10	6	.625	3
Montreal	5	9	.357	7
New York	5	9	.357	7
Philadelphia	5	10	.333	7 1/2

Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	10	7	.588	-
Pittsburgh	7	8	.467	2
St. Louis	6	10	.375	3 1/2
Cincinnati	6	11	.353	4
Chicago	0	13	.000	8

West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	12	3	.800	-
Los Angeles	10	5	.667	2
Colorado	10	5	.667	2
San Diego	8	7	.533	4

## American League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	10	3	.769	2 1/2
Toronto	8	6	.571	3
Boston	8	7	.533	3
New York	7	10	.412	5
Detroit	7	11	.388	5 1/2

Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Milwaukee	8	5	.615	-
Minnesota	10	7	.588	-
Chicago	7	7	.500	1 1/2
Cleveland	7	9	.438	2 1/2
Chicago	4	12	.250	5 1/2

West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	10	7	.588	-
Oakland	9	8	.529	1
Texas	7	7	.500	1 1/2
Anaheim	6	9	.400	3

Saturday's NL games: Pittsburgh 6, Cincinnati 5; N.Y. Mets 6, Chicago Cubs 3; Atlanta 8, Colorado 7; San Francisco 3, Florida 2; Philadelphia 10, Montreal 8; Houston 2, Los Angeles 1; St. Louis 1, San Diego 0, 1st game; St. Louis 2, San Diego 1, 2nd game.

Saturday's AL games: Oakland 7, Detroit 1; Cleveland 11, Milwaukee 6; N.Y. Yankees 3, Chicago White Sox 2; Kansas City 7, Anaheim 3; Toronto 6, Texas 6; Minnesota 4, Seattle 6.



**Waiting in the rain**  
Spain's Albert Costa (left) and his compatriot, Albert Portas, inspect the court where they were supposed to contest the final of the Barcelona Open tennis tournament yesterday. Heavy rain prevented any play and the final has been rescheduled for today. (AP)

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**YEMIN - MOSHE, EXCLUSIVE** corner house, totally renovated, central A/C, views, close to parking, smaller properties also. MONTEFIORE REALTY. Tel. 02-625-2071.

**CAPITAL 02-679-4911, TALBIEH**, garden apartment, 4, very spacious, preserved building, central air conditioning, underground parking.

**GERMAN COLONY, LARGE, unique 2.5** or 4, Basement, garden, immediate (no commission). DIVIROLI SIANI. Tel. 02-561-2424.

**GERMAN COLONY, 3, 1st floor, quiet**, redecorated, parking, large storage. Tel. 02-668-9780, 02-678-978 (NS).

**HAAS PROMENADE AREA, lovely 4**, triple conveniences, terrace, views, immediate offers. Tel. 02-673-4773.

**JEWISH QUARTER, CHARMING, 4** rooms, domed ceilings, bright, \$380,000. Exclusive M. REALTY. Tel. 02-629-5521.

**JEWISH QUARTER, SPACIOUS**, magnificent, panoramic views, parking, religious, \$1,500,000. M. REALTY. Tel. 02-629-5521, 07-627-0011.

**JEWISH QUARTER, SELECTION OF** great homes, \$250,000-\$1,500,000. M. REALTY. Tel. 02-629-5521.

**JEWISH QUARTER, DUPLEX, 4.5**, sunny, spacious, improvements, Suqach, double conveniences. Tel. 02-628-9288.

**REHAVIA, 4, RENOVATED, 2nd floor**, parking, immediate. Tel. 02-627-2849, 02-628-8186 (NS).

**REHAVIA, NEAR THE Great Synagogue**, 2 bedrooms, great view, \$198,000. ADAM WEATO. Tel. 02-563-5235.

**REHAVIA, NEW, LUXURIOUS**, special large, 210 sq.m., all amenities, no agents. Tel. 02-625-1782, 02-679-5285.

**TALBIEH (HOVEVEI ZION), 2 + hall**, large (possibility of 3) 3rd floor, "MA'YAN NECHASIM" Tel. 623-8656.

**WASHINGTON, 2.5, NEAR Plaza Hotel**, Shushat, 6, ground floors, owner. Tel. 02-624-7411.

### DWELLINGS

#### Tel Aviv

#### GENERAL

**KING DAVID REALTY**  
Exclusive offers

**FOR SALE**  
★ North Tel Aviv, luxurious, penthouse + pool  
★ Hayarok St., next to Hilton Hotel, luxurious 3 room apt. + view  
★ Azorel Chen, 300 sq.m. luxury penthouse, sea view. Also for rent

**FOR RENT**  
★ Luxurious 3 room flat, center, a/c, furnished/unfurnished  
★ Prime location, beautiful penthouse + view, \$3,600

For more information please call: Tel. 03-524-2489 Fax: 03-523-1634

#### HOLIDAY RENTALS

**FOR TOURISTS, BUSINESSMEN**, beautiful studio apartments, long/short terms. Tel. 052-451127.

#### RENTALS

**3 SEAVIEW LUXURIOUS**, prime location, next to Hilton - Gordon swimming pool, \$2,000. 03-6049483

**HEART TEL AVIV**, for 3 weeks from mid-May, 3.5 rooms, parking, fully furnished, airconditioning. Tel. (03) 560-0483

#### SALES

**NEVE AVIVIM, NEW building**, exclusive, 4 + terraces, view of sea, 168 sq.m., immediate. ISCO BUILDINGS. Tel. 03-641-2781.

**RAMAT GAN, GREAT location**, 4.5 spacious, complete floor, yard. Tel. 03-674-4630 (NS).

**2 ADJACENT APARTMENTS, 360** sq.m., for embassy, in Kfar Hamadim, good condition. Tel. 03-681-7235, 052-645-672.

#### KING DAVID TOWER

Hayarok St., next to Dan Hotel. A magnificent apt. facing the ocean. Approx 270 sq.m. plus balcony.

For appointment please contact: **King David Realty**  
Mr. David Lombroso  
03-5242489 Fax 03-5231634

#### Green Migdalor Real Estate Ltd.

03-5172190, 050-240021  
For Sale  
Pinkas Towers 1.m., 1st floor, elevator, central parking, sea view.  
Mazuraz Hotel, 7 rooms, 7th floor, elevator, parking, swimming pool, sea view

### SAUL WEINBACH

#### REAL ESTATE & INVESTMENTS

#### For Sale

★ **KING DAVID TOWERS, URI ST.** - 4 room, elevator, parking, immediate

★ **NORTH TEL AVIV** - 4 room, apartments, 90 sq.m. + 23 sq.m. on top + roof (each).

★ **PRIME LOCATION** 15 luxurious apartments, each 250-300 sq.m., north, center, near the beach, immediate.

★ **NORTH TEL AVIV UNDER CONSTRUCTION** - 3, 4 and roof apartments, quiet, elevator, parking, occupancy 1 year.

★ **NEVE AVIVIM** - Roof apartments + elevator, parking.

★ **SELECTION OF HOUSES** - Tel Baruch, Tzahala, Aleka, Ramat Hasharon.

★ **NEOT APEKA** - roof apartments nearing completion.

24 Bloch St., Tel Aviv  
Tel. 03-5247191-2-5  
Fax: 03-5249138

**NEVE AVIVIM, NEW building**, luxurious penthouse, large, 6 + roof, 4 directions, view of sea. ISCO BUILDINGS. Tel. 03-641-2781.

**OVERLOOKING SEAH!** 4 rooms, 2 bathrooms, central airconditioning, 8th floor, elevators, parking. Tel. (03) 523-0287.

**SALE / RENT EZOREI-CHEN** luxurious 4 + balcony, quiet, immediate. Yael REALTOR (MALDAN). Tel. 03-642-6263.

**SAVYON! EXCLUSIVE!** NEW building, modern + pool. DA BOTEN REALTY, Savoyon. Tel. 03-534-3356.

#### DWELLINGS

#### Dan Region

#### RENTALS

**COTTAGE, 8 ROOMS, 4 floors**, closed parking, in prestigious area. Tel. 03-657-2212.

#### DWELLINGS

#### Sharon Area

#### RENTALS

**HERZLIYA PITUAH, CONGENIAL** villa apartment, furnished, double conveniences, airconditioning, garden. Tel. (03) 955-9232.

#### SALES/RENTALS

**RAVANANA** College, 5 m, best location \$380,000  
RAVANAN NEW Duplex Penthouse, outstanding, sea view \$850,000  
Kfar Saba NEW, spacious 4 room apt. \$205,000  
RENTALS Kfar Saba 7 room Penthouse \$1300  
Ravanana cottage \$1100

63 Anusa St., Ellon Center, Rd. 60  
Tel. Fax: 03-7462029 or Tel. 02-7319179

### RAVANANA

#### BRAND NEW RELEASE

#### UNIQUE LUXURY AND ARCHITECTURAL SPECTACULAR PRIVATE BUILDING IN LEV HAPARK

For completion: June 1997  
Only 4 units per building, real overseas style

**GARDEN DUPLEX** 210 sq.m. built + 150 sq.m. garden, ample accommodation, quality finish, bronze aluminum central vacuum, built garage floor and roof \$450,000

**DUPLEX PENTHOUSE** 180 sq.m. built + sea, swimming, spacious living and dining room + open kitchen, 4 bedrooms, modern bathroom, unique phone panels, sale with balcony + jazz, pool size \$420,000

**PESAH RENTALS - IMMEDIATE**  
- 4 Rm., a/c, open balcony  
- 5 Rm., central, open balcony  
- 6 Rm., duplex, religious area, lift

ANGLO-SAXON REAL ESTATE  
1000 SHEPHERD AVENUE, SUITE 100  
Tel. 03-524-1333  
http://www.anglo-saxon.com

#### SALES

**RAMAT HASHARON, WEST** - dead end, cottage, quiet, no agents, \$650,000. Tel. 03-547-2782.

#### Don't buy or rent till you try me!

**CAROL SHAW**  
NETANYA REAL ESTATE  
10 David Hamelech St.  
+ SEAVIEW 3 rooms, 2nd floor, lift \$180,000  
+ BARGAIN beautiful studio, Carmel Hotel, sea view + swimming pool \$115,000  
☎ 09-3846544

**HOD HASHARON, MAGDIEH**, villa + dunam. Invested and possible for building. Tel. 09-742-7238, 050-330-582.

**NETANYA, LUXURIOUS 2**, on cliff, 10th floor, Carmel Hotel. Attractive price! Tel. 052-444-224.

#### Special Offer in KE



CRITIC'S CHOICE

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Agatha Christie's fun thriller *The Mousetrap*, now in its 45th year in London's West End, starts its Israeli tour tomorrow night at Beit Hahayal in Tel Aviv at 9.

PESSAH EVENTS

HELEN KAYE

The Haifa Children's Theater Festival gets under way tomorrow and runs through until Friday with 42 different plays to choose from and lots of free street theater as well. Activities start at 11 a.m. and the last show is around 7 p.m. (except for Friday).

Also tomorrow, three days of *Black and Blues* takes off at Tel Aviv's Einav Center. The main shows, featuring singers Arnae and Mark Betson among others, are at 10 p.m. and at 9 there's free stuff in the foyer. Those same two will appear on Thursday at the Dead Sea Festival which also starts tomorrow with Ahinoam Nini. And on Wednesday, Stone in the Galilee at Ma'lot-Tarshiha gets under way, where, among other activities, you can watch stones become sculptures amid breathtaking scenery, until Friday.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Those who enjoyed last fall's International Leonard Bernstein Jerusalem Competition, which focused on singing, can reminisce tomorrow (5) as Channel 2 broadcasts a documentary on the competition. An opportunity to recall the agony and the ecstasy of the winners and the losers.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

A somber local drama set during Pessah will be shown on Channel 1, at 8:15 p.m. tonight. A political adviser who got into trouble and escaped abroad returns to Israel on Pessah eve. His attempts at reconnecting with his previous life are unsuccessful. His wife and family reject him and even the police can't seem to find the warrant for his arrest. He finds himself sitting alone at a Seder table with the sounds of families celebrating together from all around. With Shmuel Vilozny. Directed by Shmuel Hasfari.

On Tuesday, the Family Channel is showing two programs on local entertainment figures. At 15:00 is the film *On the Road to Nowhere* which documents seven days with the provocative Aviv Gefen in London where he was cutting his fourth album. We accompany Gefen shopping, touring London and recording. Gefen speaks of his relations with his band, his audience, and his wife.



The talented Ahinoam Nini helps to kick off the Dead Sea Festival, while her recent tour with Sting can be viewed Tuesday evening on the Family Channel.

Later, at 21:40, the film *Terminal*, Travelogue with Ahinoam Nini will be aired for the first time. The film, directed by Dani Wacksman, follows Nini's remarkable international success, including her current tour of Europe with Sting where she performs a duet for "Fields of Gold" with him.

TV

MONDAY

CHANNEL 1

8:30 News flash  
8:31 News in Arabic  
8:45 Exercise Time  
7:00 Good Morning, Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Pretty Butterfly  
8:30 Moomins  
8:50 Wild Turfies  
9:20 The Wizard of Oz  
9:45 The Castle of Happiness  
10:10 Gravedale High  
10:35 Flamma  
11:00 The Lodge  
11:30 Kids of the Round Table (1985) - what better way to spend the summer holidays than to be King Arthur's knights?  
13:00 Short Film Competition  
13:15 In the Heat of the Night  
14:00 Same Difference - educational drama  
14:45 Ten-Fingered Conversation

CHANNEL 1

15:00 From Genesis to Pessah  
16:00 News in Jewish Tradition  
16:30 News in English ARABIC PROGRAMS  
16:40 Johnny Stacchino (1991) - a timid school-bus driver who is the image of a notorious mafioso, Johnny Stacchino, gets mistaken for the crime boss. Starring and directed by Roberto Benigni  
18:30 Four Seasons  
18:40 News  
18:50 News in English ARABIC PROGRAMS  
19:30 Telling of the Exodus from Egypt - Naomi Shemer and hundreds of young people sing about the Exodus  
20:00 News  
20:15 Whoever Wishes  
20:30 News  
20:45 The Nanny  
21:00 Much Ado About Nothing (1993) - a Shakespearean comedy about love, laughter and mistaken identity. With Kenneth Branagh, Emma Thompson, Denzel Washington and Keanu Reeves. Directed by Kenneth Branagh  
23:15 Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (1988) - two con artists try to get the better of each other. With Michael Caine and Steve Martin. Directed by Frank Oz  
1:15 On the Edge of the Shell

JORDAN TV (unconfirmed)

14:00 Holy Koran  
14:05 Captain Planet  
14:30 The Flintstones  
15:00 French programs  
16:00 Nature's Inventions  
16:50 Ocean Girl  
17:00 Extra Dimensions  
18:00 French programs  
18:30 News headlines  
19:35 One Foot in the Grave  
20:00 Discover Magazine  
20:30 The Flintstones  
21:10 Highlander  
22:00 News in English  
22:25 Under Suspicion  
23:15 Middlemarch

MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 TV Shop  
14:30 The 700 Club  
15:00 Gerbert  
15:30 Dennis the Menace  
16:00 Larry King

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs  
6:30 Tricky - cartoon  
7:00 Breakfast Magazine

9:00 Meetings

10:00 Tic Tac - quiz show  
10:30 Eli and Jules  
11:00 Half Menashe  
11:25 Bitter Honey (French, 1981) - a French Jew whose sons died in the Holocaust waits for the Messiah on the night of the Seder, every year, at the Gare de Lyon  
13:00 The Muppets Take Manhattan (1994) - Kermit, Miss Piggy and all the rest try to take their show to Broadway, but soon run into trouble. With Elliott Gould, Liza Minnelli, Joan Rivers, Gregory Hines and others. Directed by Frank Oz  
14:45 Holiday Songs  
15:00 Super Duper  
15:30 Make a Wish  
16:00 Entertainment for the Sale of Heaven - hard-rock bands  
16:30 The Four Sons of the Haggada - discussion  
17:00 News  
17:05 The Nabateans on the Spice Routes - documentary about the disappearance of the Nabateans, who once ruled the desert  
18:05 Sinbad the Sailor  
19:00 The Festival of Freedom  
19:30 Who Knows One?  
20:00 News  
20:15 Who Knows One? (cont'd)  
21:00 Much Ado About Nothing (1993) - the original version of George Bernard Shaw's play about a Cockney flower-seller taught to speak like a Duchess. With Leslie Howard and Wendy Hiller.  
22:05 The Moseyev Folklore Troupe

CHANNEL 3 (33)

16:00 Cartoons  
16:30 Panorama  
17:00 Adventures and Challenges  
18:00 Good Neighbors  
19:00 News in Arabic  
19:30 Doctors Talk  
20:00 News  
20:15 Holiday Concert - the IFC plays works with Jewish themes  
21:15 Pygmalion (1938) - the original version of George Bernard Shaw's play about a Cockney flower-seller taught to speak like a Duchess. With Leslie Howard and Wendy Hiller.  
22:05 The Moseyev Folklore Troupe

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Finis (pt) 7:30 The Story with Yossi Sivas (pt) 8:00 Dallas (pt) 8:45 The Young and the Restless (pt) 11:15 Zingara (pt) 12:00 Bamaby Jones 12:45 The Streets of San Francisco 13:30 Hope and Gloria 14:00 Dallas 14:50 Days of Our Lives 15:35 The Nanny 16:00 Hercules 16:45 Zingara 17:30 Jerusalem, East and West - a colorful documentary collage of Jerusalem  
18:00 Local Broadcast  
18:30 Bye Bye Birdie (1965) - remake of the musical based on an Elvis Presley star  
20:40 The Parvrim - the best of the veteran duo's songs from a special performance in 1996  
22:05 Love Story Special with guest stars Dafna Armoni, Raymond Abucaas, Zahava Ben and Yehuda Elias (1968) - Israeli film by Boaz Davidson. Teenager Alex falls in love with an older relative who flees for Europe and stays with his family  
00:20 Internal Affairs - mini-series about a police detective investigating internal corruption

CHANNEL 4

11:00 Family Matter  
11:30 California Dreams  
11:45 Little University  
12:15 Saved by the Bell  
13:45 Enchanted Tales  
14:35 Free Willy  
15:10 Inspector Gadget  
15:35 The Little Bits  
16:05 Composers  
17:00 King Babar - animated film about the adventures of the French elephant king  
18:30 Surprise Garden and Makebelieve Closet  
19:30 Step by Step  
20:00 Animaniacs  
20:20 Married With Children  
20:50 Roseanne  
21:10 The Cosby Show  
21:35 Different World

CHANNEL 5

6:30 Frost's Century  
7:00 The Best of The Today  
7:30 Travel Xpress  
8:00 Today  
10:00 European Squawk Box  
11:00 European Money  
11:30 CNBC Squawk Box (US stocks)  
17:00 Interiors by Design  
17:30 Gardening by the Yard  
18:00 The Site  
18:00 National Geographic Television - Skis Against the Bomb  
20:00 The Ticket  
20:30 VIP  
21:00 Dateline  
22:00 NBC Police Week  
23:00 The Best of The Tonight Show with Jay Leno  
00:00 The Best of Late Night with Conan O'Brien  
1:00 The Best of Later  
1:30 NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw  
2:00 The Best of The Tonight Show with Jay

CHANNEL 8

8:00 Open University (rpts)  
8:05 Wings of the Red Star, part 4 (pt)  
9:00 Return to the Sea (pt)  
9:30 Penderedekh  
10:40 Valery Gergiev - portrait of the Georgian conductor  
11:40 Mozart: Symphony No. 39  
12:15 Mozart: Symphony No. 36  
12:55 World On a Plate (pt)  
13:25 Travelogue (pt)  
13:30 Big City Metro: Calcutta

CHANNEL 8

6:30 Cartoons  
9:00 Heathcliff  
9:30 Alca in Wonderland  
10:00 Six in Spring  
10:05 Power Rangers  
10:30 Freekazzoid

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PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30	Telling of the Exodus from Egypt	Who Knows One? News	Who Knows One? (cont'd)	Metropolitan	Step by Step	Arabic: Sand, Sea and Surf
20:00	Whoever Wishes				Animaniacs Married with Children	Balanchine Celebration
20:30				The Parvrim	Roseanne	
21:00					The Cosby Show	
21:30					Different World	
22:00				Love Story Special	Rocky V	The Divorce of Lady X
22:30	Scar			Alex is Lovesick		Desert Dreams
23:00						

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Two Much Trouble (1994) (pt)  
13:00 New in the Cinema  
13:10 To Be or Not to Be (1942) - classic comedy by Ernst Lubitsch with Carole Lombard and Jack Benny  
14:50 The Way to Dusty Death (1985) - thriller based on Alstair Maclean novel. An alcoholic race driver discovers he is being manipulated by a drug ring. With Linda Hamilton  
16:40 New in the Cinema  
16:55 Leap of Faith (1992) - comedy with Steve Martin as a traveling preacher. With Debra Winger  
18:45 Tricker than Blood (1983) - a man's wife leaves and he sues for custody of their son. To his amazement she claims the boy is not his son. With Peter Strauss  
20:20 Metropolitan (1990) - independent film about the debutante socialite New York scene  
22:00 Rocky V (1990) - final installment in the saga of the boxer. With Sylvester Stallone and Talia Shire  
23:45 Passenger 57 (1992) - action with Wesley Snipes  
1:10 Body Language (1992) - thriller about a secretary who covets her boss's job. With Heather Locklear

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17:00 King Babar - animated film about the adventures of the French elephant king  
18:30 Surprise Garden and Makebelieve Closet  
19:30 Step by Step  
20:00 Animaniacs  
20:20 Married With Children  
20:50 Roseanne  
21:10 The Cosby Show  
21:35 Different World

CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University (rpts)  
8:05 Wings of the Red Star, part 4 (pt)  
9:00 Return to the Sea (pt)  
9:30 Penderedekh  
10:40 Valery Gergiev - portrait of the Georgian conductor  
11:40 Mozart: Symphony No. 39  
12:15 Mozart: Symphony No. 36  
12:55 World On a Plate (pt)  
13:25 Travelogue (pt)  
13:30 Big City Metro: Calcutta

CHANNEL 8

6:30 Cartoons  
9:00 Heathcliff  
9:30 Alca in Wonderland  
10:00 Six in Spring  
10:05 Power Rangers  
10:30 Freekazzoid

LENO

3:00 Internight  
6:30 Aerobics Oz Style  
7:00 Pierre Franey's Cooking  
7:30 Fashion TV  
8:00 Charles in Charge  
8:30 Oprah Winfrey  
9:30 Dynasty  
10:30 Santa Barbara  
11:30 The Bold and the Beautiful  
12:00 Hindi shows  
13:30 Lost in Space  
14:30 Black Beauty  
15:00 Charles in Charge  
15:30 Pierre Franey's Cooking  
16:00 Living on the Edge  
17:30 Hindi programs  
18:30 Star News  
19:00 Yes, Minister  
20:30 Chicago Hope  
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful  
21:00 Santa Barbara  
22:00 Star News  
22:30 X-Files  
23:30 Star Trek  
00:30 Fantasy Island  
1:30 Oprah Winfrey  
2:30 Bamaby Jones

STAR PLUS

6:30 Frost's Century  
7:00 The Best of The Today  
7:30 Travel Xpress  
8:00 Today  
10:00 European Squawk Box  
11:00 European Money  
11:30 CNBC Squawk Box (US stocks)  
17:00 Interiors by Design  
17:30 Gardening by the Yard  
18:00 The Site  
18:00 National Geographic Television - Skis Against the Bomb  
20:00 The Ticket  
20:30 VIP  
21:00 Dateline  
22:00 NBC Police Week  
23:00 The Best of The Tonight Show with Jay Leno  
00:00 The Best of Late Night with Conan O'Brien  
1:00 The Best of Later  
1:30 NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw  
2:00 The Best of The Tonight Show with Jay

CHANNEL 5

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